FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 002 *4 January 1984*

ARGENTINA

Caputo Denies Settlement of Beagle Conflict B 1
'Official Declaration' on Falklands Issued B 1
Briefs: Air Force Authorities Installed; II Corps Commander Installed; Presidential Adviser Appointed; Economic-Social Cabinet Created B 2

BOLIVIA

Jaime Ponce Designated Acting Industry Minister C 1
Government To Discuss Landlock Issue With Chile C 1
Economic Adviser Reports on Argentina's Gas Debt C 1
Soviet Ambassador Presents Credentials to Siles C 2
Investigation of Detainee's Death Ordered C 2

BRAZIL

Increased Cooperation With Suriname Sought [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 29 Dec] D 1
Commentator on Aftermath of President's Decision [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 30 Dec] D 1
Comparison of President's Year-End Message D 3
PMDB President Warns Against 'Indirect Vote' [FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 29 Dec] D 3
Country's First Antarctic Base To Be Established [O GLOBO 3 Jan] D 4

CHILE

Paper Reports Bishops' 'Secret Agreements' [LA TERCERA] E 1
CNI Arrest Socialists, Find Arms Cache E 2
PRODEN Denies Socialist Ties E 3
Havana Notes Arrests E 3
Three Dynamite Attacks in Santiago Cause Damage E 3
Havana Notes Bomb Attacks E 4
Mineworkers Reinstated, Dismissals Invalidated E 4

COLOMBIA

ECOPETROL Official on Self-Sufficiency in Oil [EL SIGLO 28 Dec] F 1
25 Sailors To Be Released From Jail in Cuba [EL TIEMPO 27 Dec] F 1
Briefs: Army Deputy Commander; Palanguero Base Commander F 1

ECUADOR

Hurtado on Upgrading of Relations With Cuba G 1
Two Wounded at FRN Rally; Sailors Arrested G 1
Briefs: 1984 Budget G 1

PARAGUAY

Hunger Strikers Reported in 'Critical' Condition H 1
Hunger Strikers Transferred [Havana] H 1
Former Minister on Strikers [Havana] H 1
Journalist Arrested for Distributing Pamphlets H 2
[ABC COLOR 2 Jan]
Journalist's Release Reported [ULTIMA HORA 2 Jan] H 2

PERU

Armed Forces Joint Command Members Sworn In J 1
Percovich Discusses 1983 Anti-Subversion Results J 1
On Anti-Terrorist Measures J 2
Shining Path Invited to Ayacucho Town Meeting J 3
Civil Guard Post Attacked; 3 Policemen Killed J 3
Shining Path Attacks Cobriza Mine, Store J 4
Havana on Labor Problems, Strikes, Insurgency J 4
PETROPERU, CORREO Workers Strike J 4
CORREO Dismisses Workers J 4
Failure To Stop Insurgency J 5
'Concentration Camps' [EL DIARIO MARKA] J 5
Chilean Citizen Carrying Arms to Ecuador Arrested J 5

URUGUAY

Weekly Seized; Interior Minister Comments K 1
Newspaper Director Detained After Demonstration K 1
Havana Notes Arrest K 1
Opposition Party Leaders Attacked With Bombs K 2

VENEZUELA

Implications of Nigerian Coup on OPEC, Caracas L 1
'Price War' L 1
Herrera on Nigerian Coup L 1

MEXICO

Paper Comments on U.S.-Nicaraguan Relations M 1
[EXCELSIOR 26 Dec]
New Cooperation Agreement Signed With Spain M 1
PSUM Highlights Domestic, International Concerns M 1
[cross-reference]

PANAMA

PNP Leaders Support Pact With Paredes [YA 30 Dec] N 1
Paredes Issues New Year Message N 1
PDC President Seeks Unity of Opposition Parties N 2
Commentary Examines Canal Staff Reductions N 3
Briefs: New CONEP President N 4

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Disarray, 'Repression' Within PVP Described P 1
[LA NACION 23 Dec]

EL SALVADOR

COPREFA Admits Over 100 Killed in El Paraiso P 1
FMLN on Fate of Army Officers [Farabundo Marti] P 3
Army Pursues Rebels, Broadens Security Measures P 3
PLN, ESA Deny U.S. 'Death Squad' Charges P 3
Armed Forces Meeting, Promotions Policy Discussed P 4
FMLN Says New Actions 'Shatter' U.S. Tactics [Venceremos] P 5
Farabundo Marti Reviews 29 Dec-1 Jan Actions P 5
FMLN Charges Air Force Bombed Perquin 1 Jan [Venceremos] P 6
FMLN General Command Releases Year-End Message [Venceremos] P 6
FMLN Lauds Anniversary of Cuban Revolution P 12
FMLN General Command Message [Managua] P 12
Farabundo Marti Greeting P 13
Farabundo Marti Cites Honduran Communist Communique P 14

GUATEMALA

Mejia Victores Makes Policy Statement to Nation P 14
Electoral Tribunal 'Adamant' on Procedures P 15
'Counterrevolutionary Solidarity' Attacks Embassy P 15
Havana Reports Police Arrest 50 in Capital P 16
ORPA Member Discusses Movement, Political Situation [Havana] P 16
Background to Leftist SIAG Bulletin Given P 17

HONDURAS

Government Reiterates March 1982 Peace Proposal [LA PRENSA 30 Dec] P 18
Foreign Secretary Proposes Prisoner Exchange [TIEMPO 3 Jan] P 19
Paz Barnica on Secretariat's 1983 Performance P 19
Suazo Cordova Discusses 1985 Elections [TIEMPO 30 Dec] P 20

NICARAGUA

D'Escoto Views 1983 Foreign Policy Achievements P 21
MIDINRA Officials Comment on U.S. Meat Import Ban P 21
Daniel Ortega Sends Anniversary Message to PLO P 22
PLI Outlines Views, Position on Coming Elections P 22
Havana Reports on Military Developments, Actions P 23
Casualty Reports Noted P 23
Group Cited on Miskitos' Return P 24
ARDE General Command Outlines Military Actions P 24
Heavy Enemy Casualties Reported [Voice of Sandino] P 24
Punta Gorda Ambush [Voice of Sandino] P 25
Further Ambush Reported [Voice of Sandino] P 26
Humberto Ortega Figures on Casualties Disputed [Voice of Sandino] P 26
ARDE Notes 'Concern' With FDN Restructuring P 26

CUBA

'Our America' Highlights Castro 1 January Speech Q 1
State Council Authorizes Decorations of Generals Q 2
Resolution No 250 Q 2
Resolution No 251 Q 3
USSR Congratulates Castro on 25th Anniversary Q 4

Castro, PCF's Marchais Issue Declaration Q 5
Marchais Departs Q 5
Commentary on Nicaraguan Peace Efforts Q 6
Chilean Resistance to Pinochet Regime Viewed Q 7
Angolan Defense Minister Interviewed by BOHEMIA Q 8

CARIBBEAN

Telecommunication Leaders Form Consortium S 1

BAHAMAS

New Chief Justice Takes Oath of Office S 2
Delegation Leaves for Speakers Meeting S 2

BARBADOS

Prime Minister Adams' New Year's Message S 2
Country Damaged by Trinidad Trade Policies S 4

BERMUDA

Magistrate, Monetary Authority Chief Resign S 4

DOMINICA

OECS Summit Set for Late January in St Lucia S 4

JAMAICA

Economist Foresees Low Level of Instability S 5
[SUNDAY GLEANER 20 Dec]
Bauxite Industry Output Hits 20-Year Low S 6

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Tobago Assembly Chairman on 1984 Budget S 7
1984 Sugar Industry Production, Imports Estimate S 8

OTHER COUNTRIES

GUYANA

Bauxite Industry 1983 Production Figures, Losses V 1

SURINAME

Government Waiting for Dissident Workers' Answer V 1
Bouterse, Workers Reach Agreement V 1

CAPUTO DENIES SETTLEMENT OF BEAGLE CONFLICT

PY031300 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo last night released a statement regarding remarks made by Gonzalez Bergez. The statement says:

After reading the remarks made by Gonzalez Bergez, I would like to state that, unfortunately, the problem with Chile was not settled 3 months ago. Nothing would have made me happier but, speaking the truth, I regret to have to deny it.

The statement adds: Therefore, it is not true that an agreement is going to be signed in the next few days. It would be inconceivable for us to prepare for such a decision without first explaining it to the public. In my earlier statement, I pointed out that negotiations are continuing and that, although the areas of disagreement have been reduced, a final agreement has not been reached.

The foreign minister's statement says in conclusion: This is the truth; anything else is speculation.

'OFFICIAL DECLARATION' ON FALKLANDS ISSUED

PY032350 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The government has voiced its recognition of those countries that have supported us and paid homage to the young Argentine soldiers who gave their lives for this just cause, that is, the Malvinas cause.

The official declaration was issued on the occasion of the 151st anniversary of Britain's illegal occupation of the Malvinas by force.

The press communique issued by the San Martin Palace states that on this anniversary of an unfortunate event in our history, it is appropriate to point out the permanent desire of the Argentine Government and people to reverse the situation, to restore the Malvinas, South Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands to the national patrimony.

The document then goes on to state that the current Argentine Government, in one of its first foreign policy steps, has reiterated before the UN secretary general its respect for a peaceful solution to international controversies. It has also disclosed its willingness to begin the good faith negotiations which the UN General Assembly recommended in its Resolution No 38/12, and other similar resolutions regarding the Malvinas issue in order to reach a definitive solution to the dispute.

Moreover, the Argentine Government wishes to point out once again that importance with which it views the interests of the islanders and adds that they will be duly cared for and protected in keeping with the Constitution, democratic principles, rights, and principles currently in force in Argentina, in addition to a special statute of guarantees and safeguards which could be signed at the appropriate time.

The document goes on to point out that this date could not be recalled without expressing the recognition of the Argentine Government and people of those countries that have permanently supported our effort to recover that territory, that is, our recognition of the Latin American states, as well as of the countries of the Nonaligned Movement, and of all those states which have understood the essence of the Argentine claim and the contribution which the achievement of a just and peaceful solution will represent to the preservation of international harmony.

The document ends with a reference to the 1982 war, pointing out that the remembrance of this date cannot end without bringing to mind the image of those young Argentine soldiers who gave their lives for this just and peaceful cause.

BRIEFS

AIR FORCE AUTHORITIES INSTALLED -- Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (DYN) -- Air Regions Commander Roberto Camblor today installed Colonel Hugo Giampaoletti as the new commander of the Central Air Region. The ceremony was held at the Ezeiza National Airport. Giampaoletti replaces Colonel Rodolfo Echegoyen, who is now serving as chief of the Parana squadron. Brigadier Camblor later installed Colonel Guillermo Vicente Mendiberri as chief of the National Aeronautic Police Directorate. Mendiberri replaces Colonel Jorge Ante. [Text] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1547 GMT 28 Dec 83 PY]

II CORPS COMMANDER INSTALLED -- Rosario, 28 Dec (NA) -- Army chief of Staff Jorge Arguindegui this morning installed General Hector Rios Erenu as the new commander of the II Corps [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1530 GMT 28 Dec 83 PY]

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER APPOINTED -- Buenos Aires, 27 Dec (TELAM) -- It was learned tonight from official sources that the government has appointed Doctor Alfredo Ferro as presidential adviser. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0040 GMT 28 Dec 83 PY]

ECONOMIC-SOCIAL CABINET CREATED -- Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (DYN) -- The government today created an economic and social cabinet which will consist of the ministers of economy, labor and social security, health and social action, and public works and services, as well as the secretary general of the presidency. The cabinet was created through Decree 256, which states that the remaining cabinet minsters, the Central Bank president, and the planning secretary will be entitled to participate in it. [Text] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1912 GMT 22 Dec 83 PY]

JAIME PONCE DESIGNATED ACTING INDUSTRY MINISTER

PY031803 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Urban Development and Housing Minister Jaime Ponce Garcia has been designated acting minister of industry, commerce and tourism until a new minister is appointed. Humberto Mur Gutierrez has received a letter from President Siles accepting his resignation.

GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS LANDLOCK ISSUE WITH CHILE

PY302117 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1501 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 30 Dec (EFE) -- Today Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado confirmed that Bolivia has officially agreed to the opening of a dialogue with Chile to try to find a solution to the century-old Bolivian landlocked problem.

Ortiz Mercado addressed a note to his Colombian counterpart, Rodrigo Lloreda, expressing Bolivia's consent to the Colombian decision to sponsor a dialogue with Chile. The note states that Bolivia agrees with "satisfaction and goodwill," with the assurance that dialogue "under the watchful eyes of all American countries will open the path to an understanding between Bolivia and Chile and will find a solution to the Bolivian landlocked problem."

Colombia has decided to sponsor the meeting between Bolivia and Chile in Bogota in compliance with an OAS resolution stressing the urgent need to find a solution to the Bolivian problem.

ECONOMIC ADVISER REPORTS ON ARGENTINA'S GAS DEBT

PY301450 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] During a press conference yesterday in the General Secretariat Office at the Government Palace, the presidential economic adviser, Arturo Nunez del Prado, gave the news media a broad and detailed report on his mission to Buenos Aires seeking an agreement on the schedule for settling the Argentine debt to Bolivia for the purchase of Bolivian natural gas. Nunez del Prado stated that President Raul Alfonsin's intervention played a key role in reaching a satisfactory agreement.

Argentina owes Bolivia a total of $243 million for the purchase of natural gas up to September 1983. Argentina will have difficulties in settling this debt because of its economic plight. Nevertheless, Nunez del Prado said that some agreements were reached within the framework of the close friendship and brotherly ties with Argentina. Although the agreements do not entirely meet Bolivian expectations, at least they satisfy Bolivia's most pressing needs for foreign currency.

Up to February 1984, Argentina will pay $79 million in the following way: Before the end of 1983, Argentina will pay $15 million, and in January and February it will make weekly $8-million payments until the $79-million amount agreed upon is reached.

In February, commissions of the Central Banks and of the Energy and Hydrocarbons Ministry will again meet in Buenos Aires to concur on new payment schedules for settling the remainder of the $243-million debt. Argentina fell behind in settling its outstanding bills 7 months ago, economic adviser Arturo Nunez del Prado said.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO SILES

PY310045 Paris AFP in English 1609 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] La Paz, 30 Dec (AFP) -- In remarks to the local press, the new Soviet ambassador to Bolivia, Akadiy M. Glukhov, stated today in La Paz that a nuclear catastrophe can be provoked with a push of a button.

Glukhov replaced Sergey Kovalev, who died of a heart attack in this capital in October 1983.

The new ambassador, who yesterday presented his credentials to Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo, stated that the situation is very dangerous because thousands of rockets are aimed at the USSR, placing the world on the brink of the abyss. He aaded that for this reason the Soviet Union has declared itself in favor of the prohibition of a nuclear war and for disarmament, and has unilaterally decided not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

He attributed the withdrawal of his country from the Geneva talks to the U.S. insistence on deploying missiles in Western Europe.

In conclusion, he said that he will work for a greater rapprochement between the Soviet Union and Bolivia and for the expansion of economic agreements.

INVESTIGATION OF DETAINEE'S DEATH ORDERED

PY310240 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2134 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] La Paz, 29 Dec (EFE) -- The Bolivian Navy has ordered an in-depth investigation into the death of noncommissioned officer Alfredo Rios Saavedra, who died after being held in military facilities. Rios Saavedra was detained by military intelligence personnel, who confirmed his involvement in the removal and sales of arms to alleged groups of civilians.

Relatives charge that Rios Saavedra died from the torture to which he was subjected while being questioned. A preliminary official report indicated that the noncommissioned officer died of a heart attack. This was denied by relatives.

The Bolivian Navy discovered that alleged civilian groups of Cubans, Bolivians, and people from other countries bribed noncommissioned officers Alfredo Rios and Alex Valda to provide them with weapons obtained from Armed Forces arsenals.

The deposition by Valda supplied incriminating evidence against well-known government officials involved in the formation of armed civilian groups.

INCREASED COOPERATION WITH SURINAME SOUGHT

PY031815 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- In an interview granted to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and JORNAL DA TARDE, General Waldir Vasconcelos, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, has stated that "military exchange between Brazil and Suriname has begun with negotiations on supplying provisions to Suriname, and this exchange will be intensified in 1984." Vasconcelos added that the Armed Forces have offered to train Surinamese officers in their academies.

One of the top Surinamese officers will visit Brazil by April, going to Brasilia, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro. Negotiations to supply light weapons could be carried out during this visit, further consolidating the exchange, which has been one of Brazil's most successful military and diplomatic projects this year.

According to Vaconcelos, the air link between Brazil and Suriname, which was one of the points agreed on during the visits of Surinamese officers to Brazil, is now in effect with the Bandeirante plane to Belem.

Brazil will also be able to help Suriname to improve its flight protection system, both through courses and through projects.

A center of Brazilian studies has been created in Suriname, with 500 military and civilian participants in Portuguese courses. These students will participate in the military, technological, and economic exchange projects and in agreements to be made between the two countries.

The delegation of Surinamese officers scheduled to visit Brazil by April will already include at least one Portuguese-speaking officer, according to a report made to one of the Brazilian officers who is following up the cooperation between the two countries.

What interests Suriname most in a military exchange is professionalizing its Armed Forces personnel, involving more officers, and beginning with the training stage.

Cooperation between Brazil and Suriname, notably the military exchange, has been the object of agreements reached after the Venturini mission, whose main objective was a rapprochement between Brazil and Suriname in order to prevent a further rapprochement between Suriname and Cuba.

COMMENTATOR ON AFTERMATH OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION

PY031505 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Dec 83 p 5

[Jose Marcio Mendoca's commentary: "Only a Torn-Up Party Is Left"]

[Text] Brasilia --Has Andreazza's situation improved? Will Aureliano Chaves and Helio Beltrao now have more freedom and more room? Was it good for Maluf? And where are the other PDS [Social Democratic Party] candidates left?

Still shocked by President Figueiredo's decision to renounce the role of coordinator of the presidential succession process, political leaders of the ruling party were trying yesterday to gather more information on the reasons for the president's decision before risking any kind of interpretation.

The president's speech has surprised everyone, even the military. No one was really joyful, not even Maluf's followers. They had quite different feelings.

And this reservation is fully justifiable. In fact, Figueiredo's renunciation is not good for anyone within the PDS (the issue of direct elections or the plans of the opposition parties are beside the point here).

Despite the disadvantages, the visible and invisible defections, and all the anxieties, the president had managed to maintain the presidential succession process at a slower pace and on a fairly reasonable level. The president's coordination has curbed the growing ambitions and interests ready to surface in a torn-up party with few principles. Figueiredo played the role of both censor and policeman, although we are not using these words in their negative connotations. What will happen now to the PDS in the presidential succession? Anything is possible. As Figueiredo leaves, so will others like the military ministers, Minister Leitao de Abreu, and Generals Venturini and Ludwig, who have tried to keep the succession on a more ethical course.

Perhaps the resignation was not definitive, although it was sincere. The PDS panicked because it never expected such a step from Figueiredo. The PDS president, Senator Jose Sarney, learned of the president's decision Wednesday evening and was so alarmed that he did not disclose the information until the last minute. His only reaction was to announce a meeting of the party's National Executive Committee for early January to analyze the situation.

Entangled in an almost fratricidal struggle among its main candidates, the PDS may collapse, and even lose the fight in the Electoral College to an opposition candidate with a platform regarded as acceptable by the most serious sectors of the party. President Figueiredo himself envisaged this possibility in three important passages of his speech: 1) when he defended national reconciliation; 2) when he said that candidates should be respected by the nation; 3) when he said that the Brazilian people want political sincerity.

During these days, the PDS and its would-be candidates, including dissident Maluf, will have a long time to mediate on the impact on their interests of the president's resignation. No one should entertain any doubts: In a few days, the party will try to return to the president's arms like a little lamb, with promises of love and faithfulness. After all, the party has just lost the government.

For 1 year, Figueiredo has tried to pacify the PDS, to coordinate the presidential succession, and to turn Andreazza into an acceptable candidate. All this is a game of half-marked cards that will also be played by the Electoral College in charge of the presidential succession. At last Figueiredo realized that it was impossible to take any serious action within a system that is so illegitimate and that is bound by so many commitments.

Regrettably, the part of the speech dealing with politics included two fallacies: 1) the belief that everything should be decided by a single man; 2) the attack against the campaign for direct elections, in total disregard for the will of a vast majority of the Brazilian people.

The president has resigned his role of coordinator. The most important lessons of a totally fruitless year must now be drawn. The doors remain open to an understanding beyond personal ambitions.

COMPARISON OF PRESIDENT'S YEAR-END MESSAGE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 30 December on page 4 publishes the text of the year-end message delivered by Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo. This version has been compared to the Brasilia Domestic Service version published in the 30 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages D 1-2, revealing the following variations:

Page D 1, third paragraph, lines 1-2 in O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO read: ... face future challenges. We must fight financial imbalance, because it can fuel a dangerous escalation of process, and we must prevent any situation that may lead careless analysts to say that the...(supplying indistinct passage, rewording)

Sixth paragraph, penultimate and final lines in O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO read: ...weaker nations, particularly because they are inhabited by large numbers of people whose impoverished standard of living is incompatible with human... (supplying indistinct passage, rewording)

Page D 2, third paragraph, lines 7-8 in O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO read: ...did not discriminate in the treatment to which they are entitled under the federative principle. I maintained the... (supplying indistinct passage)

Same paragraph, lines 11-12 in O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO read: ...an invaluable good. At times, though in some sectors more often, I had to tolerate disrespect for truth. However, I cannot ... (clearing queried word and rewording)

Fourth paragraph, lines 1-2 in O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO read: Tranquillity and order must prevail everywhere to prevent disrespect for individual rights. Social peace and the state of law must be preserved and protected.

The Presidential succession... (clearing queried phrases, picking up fifth paragraph)

Penultimate paragraph, lines 3-4 in O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO read: ...a constitutional rule that forbids the election of the president by the direct method. At this stage... (rewording)

PMDB PRESIDENT WARNS AGAINST 'INDIRECT VOTE'

PY021744 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Deputy Ulisses Guimaraes, National President of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party], yesterday warned against the risk of a "social explosion" in the country, "should the people's right to elect their rulers through the direct vote be denied." Keeping the system of indirect elections "will be terrible, frustrating, and extremely dangerous for Brazil," Guimaraes added, while leveling accusations against congressmen who vote against the constitutional amendment to establish direct elections and emphasizing their responsibility for the possible consequences of their decision.

In a meeting with Senator Afonso Camargo, the PMDB president approved a publicity campaign for the return to direct elections, including posters, T-shirts, stickers, and other objects, all carrying the national colors.

COUNTRY'S FIRST ANTARCTIC BASE TO BE ESTABLISHED

PY040210 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Jan 84 p 6

[Excerpt] The Antarctic Base Comandante Ferraz, the first Brazilian base on the Antarctic, will be installed by technicians of the oceanographic vessel Barao de Teffe that will start its second expedition to the white continent from Rio de Janeiro at 1500 today.

The Brazilian base on the Antarctic will be named after the late oceanographer Captain Luis Antonio de Carvalho Ferraz. The eight containers which interconnect and which will serve as the base to be used only during the Antarctic summer, from January to March, are being transported by the Barao de Teffe. The assembly of the base, which consists of galvanized steel containers made entirely of Brazilian material, will take 12 days. The base will cover an area of 250 square meters.

Twelve persons will remain at the Antarctic Base Comandante Ferraz for a period of 45 to 50 days during which they will conduct logistic research (daily observation of the physical behavior of the material and technology used) as well as research on the propagation of VLF [very low frequencies] in the lower ionosphere, will collect meteorological data as well as data on hydrological observation of animal life in the Antarctic. During this time a complete map of the areas surrounding the base will be drawn to safeguard navigation.

The second phase of the Barao de Teffe expedition will start after the base of the Palmer Archipelago is installed. After that the Brazilian expedition will sail to the Chilean Punta Arenas port, the Elefante island, and will then return to the Antarctic base, stopping at the Polish base and the Chilean base and then sailing to Montevideo, Rio Grande, and Rio de Janeiro where it is scheduled to arrive on 20 March.

The members of the Interministerial Commission for Ocean Resources (CIRM), which is in charge of the coordination and implementation of the Brazilian Antarctic program, will be supported by the Brazilian Air Force with a Hercules C-130 that will transport personnel and material to the Chilean base Marsh during the first and last phases of the expedition. The aircraft will also support the vessels Barao de Teffe and Professor W. Besnard of Sao Paulo University in Punta Arenas, Chile.

The base will be headed by Captain Edilson Nascimento Martins. The assembly and installation of the Comandante Ferraz Base will be directed by CIRM coordinator Captain Fernando Sergio Nogueira de Araujo.

A group of 14 Brazilian scientists will remain at the Chilean base Marsh to carry out scientific research with other foreign scientists. Seven more scientists will remain at the Polish base Arctowski.

PAPER REPORTS BISHOPS' 'SECRET AGREEMENTS'

PY311726 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2138 GMT 30 Dec 83

[By Senen Conejeros]

[Text] Santiago, 30 Dec (EFE) -- A confidential report prepared by the Chilean bishops and used in their latest plenary session held at the central Chilean seacoast area of Punta de Tralca was published in Santiago today. The newspaper LA TERCERA carries an exclusive report on this document, stating that it was approved at the bishops' meeting held a couple of weeks ago. A bishop consulted by EFE denied that it was an agreement and called it a "working document."

According to the newspaper, the document speaks of "seeking with the simplicity of a dove and the prudence of a snake a relationship with Marxists who would respect them as persons and who would clearly maintain the identity of the Catholic faith."

In an assessment of the current political situation, the bishops state that "there are no leaders in the opposition who would channel and interpret a consensus. The parties have no social basis or influence in society."

The bishops harshly criticize the president of the republic, stating that "General Pinochet is the chief negative factor in a national consensus and encounter, because of his authoritarian and arbitrary mentality, his personalism, and his contempt for those who dissent."

Despite these statements, the Catholic bishops say that "any return to democracy must be with the participation of the Armed Forces, the sole institution organized solidly to support the process, and especially, to maintain the country's unity in a common economic effort."

The bishops add that "the Communist Party continues to lead the development of the process, that they feel that this process will flow in to the current economic crisis which they will meet at the head of an army of a million hungry persons." [sentence as received]

According to the Chilean Catholic bishops, "the PCCH was not a significant public force in March 1983, but it has grown, especially among the young and the students, who are leading the demonstrations." The bishops state that the Communist Party, supported by money from Moscow and the socialist bloc, have hundreds of activists in the population (housing), and in the unions (copper and petroleum).

The prelates state in their analysis that "it is of great importance that the democratic forces should not seek power ahead of time, because any haste would divide their capacity for pressure, which must be maintained in unity and strength; and a power struggle should be avoided, because the country is not in any condition to sustain it."

Regarding the future, the Bishops Conference maintains that "unless consensus is reached soon, in 1984 we will experience a double political and economic crisis of such magnitude that it might be expected that the people who are in the most difficult situation could initiate permanent, active resistance, starting a confrontation whose cost and magnitude could be very great."

They add that the proess of transforming the country into a democracy necessarily entails passing through a transitional period with a military government maintaining a dialogue and showing respect for the basic rights of dissidents.

Regarding this transition, the bishops say that "it is necessary to be realistic as to what can possibly be expected from a country like Chile, which sees its system of social coexistence being destroyed and which is deeply divided."

Regarding this so-called "secret agreement," published today with exclusive rights by a daily, EFE has had a short talk with a bishop who asked that his name not be used but who admitted that he knew of the document. The prelate said that "there has been no such agreement and it is only a question of a working document, like so many others, in which the authors gave elements for analysis."

According to the bishop who spoke to EFE, one can only talk of "agreement among the bishops after the vote to which each document is customarily submitted, usually point by point."

The bishop concluded by saying: "In the case of this working document, despite reflecting the thinking of a large majority of us, it is neither a 'document of the bishops' nor 'an agreement' of the Bishops Conference."

In turn, Roberto Urbina, the press secretary of the bishops, excused himself from giving information or making comments on the matter. Urbina told EFE that the situation that has arisen is being studied, and that an official statement on the published document will probably be made in the next few hours.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0125 on 31 December reports from Santiago that the Permanent Commission of the Chilean Bishops Conference has denied, in a document signed by Archbishop Bernardino Pinera, president of the conference, and Bishop Sergio Contreras Navia, its secretary general, that the bishops reached any "secret agreements" at the recent meeting at Punta de Tralca. The denial says that the so-called "agreements" published by the daily LA TERCERA are "mere antecedents or drafts received by the bishops for study, which in no case are agreements."]

CNI ARREST SOCIALISTS, FIND ARMS CACHE

PY301505 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The National Intelligence Center [CNI] has arrested three activists of the proscribed Socialist Party and has found a sizeable arms cache. The CNI placed these individuals under jurisdiction of the Military Court. Those arrested are: Rafael Ruiz Moscatelli, secretary general of the Socialist Party's military branch; Andres Nicolas Galanakis Tapia, member of the Political Commission in charge of relations with the PRODEN [National Development Project]; and Gustavo Francisco Zepeda Camiliere, acting secretary general of the PIC [Chilean Christian Left] and member of the PIC Political Commission in charge of the military branch.

The CNI also found an arms cache in a so-called safe house of the Marxist extremist groups who operate in Santiago. The house is located at 1324 Santiago (Joinca) Street. A large quantity of arms and propaganda material was found there.

PRODEN Denies Socialist Ties

PY302100 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The National Development Project [PRODEN] has categorically denied through its president, Jorge Lavandero, that some of its members are involved in terrorist activities as has been reported.

In a public declaration, Lavandero said that the National Intelligence Center [CNI] statement that Andres Galankas is an intermediary between the Socialist Party and PRODEN is not true.

[Begin Lavandero recording] Mr Andres Galankas is not a member of PRODEN. He has not been accredited as a representative of any political party or of any other organization to our institution. On several occasions, he has requested our intervention before Minister Jarpa seeking solutions to some human rights problems affecting himself. One of these problems concerns his 14-year-old son who is living in France and from whom he has been forcibly separated. He has been detained by security forces, and according to what he said, he received a bullet wound in the past and was separated from his son who, as I said, is living in France.

PRODEN members are publicly known as democrats. They act in the daylight, openly. All of our addresses are known, while the CNI cannot say the same. The CNI is an organization which has gained the repudiation of the people in general because of its shady activities. [end recording]

The PRODEN declaration is signed by Jorge Lavandero, Diego Portales, and Gilberto (Fridman).

Havana Notes Arrests

PA311817 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Rafael Ruiz, Andres Galanakis and Gustavo Zepeda, leaders of the Chilean Socialist Party, have been detained in Santiago by agents of the National Intelligence Center [CNI] under charges of perpetrating a number of dynamite attacks in that country.

The CNI has accused the three socialist leaders of planning to create a guerrilla group, which would be called Combatants of La Moneda.

THREE DYNAMITE ATTACKS IN SANTIAGO CAUSE DAMAGE

PY021444 Paris AFP in Spanish 1233 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 2 Jan (AFP) -- The Carabineros militarized police today reported that dynamite attacks have today damaged two banks and a Santiago civil defense office. The attacks, which have still not been claimed by any group, were almost simultaneous. They were carried out before dawn in the San Miguel district, located in south Santiago. The Carabineros reported that the attacks caused extensive damage but that there were no victims.

Havana Notes Bomb Attacks

PA020300 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Unidentified individuals have thrown an explosive device at a police station in a crowded neighborhood in Santiago, Chile, causing damage but no casualties. Another dynamite attack destroyed the front of a bank and the windows of several businesses in the Recoleta neighborhood of Santiago. According to international news agencies, the Chilean fascist regime's police immediately began an intense search for four suspects seen near the area shortly before the explosion.

MINEWORKERS REINSTATED, DISMISSALS INVALIDATED

PY031305 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0053 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Santiago, 2 Jan (EFE) -- Thirty workers of the Andina mine of the state-owned copper company CODELCO [Copper Corporation], who had been dismissed in the wake of the strikes staged on 16-17 June 1983, were reinstated today. CODELCO decided to reinstate the workers after the union leaders of that mine, who had also been dismissed, offered to resign their posts voluntarily in exchange for the reinstatement of their fellow workers.

After the walkout in June 1983, when workers protested the detention of union leader Rodolfo Seguel, more than 3,000 workers of the Andina, El Salvador, and El Teniente mines were dismissed. All but 500 were later reinstated. The Chuquicamata mineworkers did not join that walkout. The CODELCO president, General Patricio Torres, also agreed to invalidate the dismissal of the union leaders. Hugo Estivales, president of the Andean workers union and vice president of the Copper Workers confederation, said that CODELCO is still considering 108 cases of workers dismissed on the same grounds.

ECOPETROL OFFICIAL ON SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN OIL

PA021746 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 Dec 83 p 11

[Excerpts] The year 1983 was expected to be decisive in determining Colombia's real potential for once again becoming self-sufficient in oil. However, as the year comes to an end, uncertainty still persists and may persist for many more years, since the technicians and experts cannot come up with any absolute answers.

Nevertheless, 1983 saw a significant increase in Colombia's oil production, which reached 170,000 barrels per day, and which could climb to 180,000 barrels in 1984.

Rodolfo Segovia Salas, manager of ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise], explained that self-supply does not solely depend on the government, ECOPETROL, and foreign company associations and concessions; it also greatly depends on the consumers themselves.

In addition, there was a considerable increase in exploration programs, particularly through association contracts, due to Colombia's lack of financial and technological resources to undertake on its own this task that is basic to the national economy.

Colombia currently imports approximately 50,000 barrels per day to complement the 170,000 barrels locally produced, in order to satisfy rising domestic demand. This rise is one of the most immediate concerns influencing the future of the national economy.

25 SAILORS TO BE RELEASED FROM JAIL IN CUBA

PA020515 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Dec 83 p 8 A

[Josefa Gutierrez report]

[Excerpts] Barranquilla, 26 Dec -- Twenty-five Colombian sailors who have been in Hamburg without any money since early December returned here today.

It has also been learned that the Cuban Government has ordered the release of 25 Colombian sailors being held in Cuban jails.

According to a Foreign Ministry communique, ASOMAR [Association of Colombian Seamen] must send passage money for the 25, "because the condition is that all or none must return." These sailors are from the ships "Dolly Ley Dol II," "Picasso," and "Siblee."

Passage money is lacking for sailors Carlos Martinez, Jose de Jesus Mendoza, Henry Alcantaro Roballo, and Enrique Torrez Ruiz.

BRIEFS

ARMY DEPUTY COMMANDER -- Major General Rafael Obdulio Forero Moreno has been appointed deputy commander of the Army. He replaces Maj Gen Jose Maria Arbelaez Caballero, who was appointed head of the Colombian military mission in the United States. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Dec 83 p 3 A PA]

PALANQUERO BASE COMMANDER -- Brigadier General Miguel Alberto Melendez has been appointed commander of the Palanquero airbase. He replaces Brig Gen Alfonso Amaya Maldonado, who has been appointed chief of air operations of the Colombian Air Force. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Dec 83 p 14 A PA]

HURTADO ON UPGRADING OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA

PA031627 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0451 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Quito, 3 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- Last night President Osvaldo Hurtado announced to the country that the Foreign Ministries of Ecuador and Cuba are holding negotiations to normalize diplomatic relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level as soon as possible. Hurtado made the announcement at a 150-minute interview sponsored by the National Secretariat of Public Information (SENDIP) that was broadcast live over a national television network.

Ecuador and Cuba reestablished diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level at the end of the 1970's, but these broke down during the first quarter of 1981 after a group of anti-Castro Cubans sought refuge in the Ecuadoran Embassy in Havana, from where they were forcefully removed and placed under arrest by the Cuban police. Hurtado said that as a result of the incident Ecuador and Cuba now have diplomatic relations, but at the reduced level of charges d'affaires.

After having overcome the causes that led to the reduction of the diplomatic representation in the two capitals, we have been examining the matter for some time, and during a conversation I held in Buenos Aires with the Cuban vice president, I expressed to him the desire of the Ecuadoran Government to reestablish relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level, he said.

Hurtado met with Rafael Rodriguez, Cuban vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, in Buenos Aires during the inauguration of Argentine President Raul Alfonsin.

TWO WOUNDED AT FRN RALLY; SAILORS ARRESTED

PA031226 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Two members of the National Navy have been identified as the citizens who wounded two individuals during a rally staged by the National Reconstruction Front, FRN, in Quito's populous (Chiriaco) neighborhood.

The sailors were identified as Humberto Saul Vargas and Luis Anibal Tinbanlongo. They were stopped by FRN candidates (Miguel Fornes) and Francisco Salazar, and later identified by their Navy identification cards. The candidates said the sailors had a pistol and an identification card belonging to Tinbanlongo. They added that they will file charges against the sailors for attempting murder, and accused the government minister of not fulfilling his promise to act firmly in confiscating weapons during political demonstrations.

BRIEFS

1984 BUDGET -- The 1984 general budget was definitely approved yesterday for the amount of 107.27 billion sucres. This figure is 2.47 billion sucres more than the figure established in the draft of the budget sent by the executive branch to Congress. President of Congress Gary Esparza said that the approved budget includes a 10 billion sucre deficit, which will be covered by the issue of government bonds. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Dec 83 PA]

HUNGER STRIKERS REPORTED IN 'CRITICAL' CONDITION

PY301308 [Editorial Report] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 28 December publishes on page 21 a 500-word report under the heading "The Health of Four Inmates Who Have Been Fasting for 46 Days Is Regarded as Very Serious." The newspaper quotes medical sources that the physical condition of four sociology students, who were detained for allegedly being involved in subversive activities, is "critical." The newspaper then writes that Pelusa Elizeche has lost 14 kg, Cayetano Quatrocchi 21 kg, Monica Perez 11 kg, and Ernesto Heisecke 19 kg.

ABC COLOR then reports that a policeman who was standing guard outside the room where the detainees are staying was arrested because he allowed a doctor, who was not on the list of persons authorized by the police, to enter the room. Then the newspaper goes on to say that prosecutor, Rene Molas, is opposed to the release of the detainees, and that "Judge Ayala Matto will have to rule in the next few days on an appeal for release submitted by attorney Fernan Diaz Perez."

The newspaper concludes its report by saying that "the four detainees are members of the University Regrouping Movement [Movimiento de Reagrupamiento Universitario] from the Sociology Faculty of Catholic University," and that "they are viewed by the police as having broken Law 209 on Defense of Public Order and the People's Freedom."

In a separate report on the same page under the heading "Ovando Has Reached 45 Days of Fasting" ABC COLOR says that "Escolastico Ovando, held in detention at the Security Guard premises on President Stroessner's orders, is now reaching 45 days of fasting." The newspaper goes on to say that "Ovando, who has already served a 15-year sentence which was handed down by a military court, has been held in detention for another 6 years on President Stroessner's orders, without trial and under the provisions of the state of siege."

Hunger Strikers Transferred

PA300444 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] According to reports from Asuncion, the four Paraguayan political prisoners who have been on a hunger strike for the past 46 days to protest their arbitrary arrest continue in poor physical condition. The prisoners -- Pelusa Elizeche, Monica Perez, Cayetano Quatrocchi, and Ernesto Heisecke, all university students -- are accused by the Alfredo Stroessner regime of distributing Marxist propaganda.

In view of their deteriorating physical condition, the students were transferred from Tucumbu Prison and El Buen Pastor Jail to the Clinics' Hospital for plasma transfusions.

Former Minister on Strikers

PA012215 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Former Paraguayan Minister (Antonio Boldovinos) has charged in Buenos Aires, Argentina, that five of his fellow citizens are on the verge of death in a jail of Alfredo Stroessner's regime, due to a hunger strike they started more than 50 days ago.

(Boldovinos) said they are sociology students Cayetano Quatrocchi, Ernesto Heisecke, Pelusa Elizeches, and Monica Perez. They are members of the so-called Movement for the Reorganization of University Students [Movimiento de Reagrupamiento Universitario], who have been charged with participating in subversive activities against the Paraguayan tyranny.

(Boldovinos) also referred to the situation of Escolastico Obando, who has been incarcerated by the tyranny for over 20 years.

JOURNALIST ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING PAMPHLETS

PY021515 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Jan 84 p 8

[Excerpt] Hector Guerin, member of the Paraguayan Journalists Union (SPP), and an ABC COLOR journalist, was arrested by the police at about 1030 Saturday at the intersection of Brasil and Cerro Cora Streets, while he was distributing pamphlets that expressed solidarity with the four arrested students who are on a hunger strike. Guerin was arrested when he handed a pamphlet to a plainclothes policeman.

The policeman took the journalist to the 3d Police Precinct, where he is being held incommunicado. The SPP has issued a communique on this matter, in which it reports Guerin's arrest and describes it as "unjust."

The SPP also demands Guerin's freedom, "since he was not violating any law but was merely exercising his legitimate right to express union soldiarity." The communique notes that the SPP has already expressed its solidarity with the arrested students and that at this time it "reasserts the need that today, more than ever, Paraguayan unions should be united to defend the right of unions to organize themselves, and to defend the right of unions to express their opinion freely."

Journalist's Release Reported

PY031355 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Jan 84 p 7

[Excerpt] Hector Guerin, journalist for ABC COLOR and member of the SPP [Paraguayan Journalists Union], was released this morning after being held incommunicado at the 3d Police Precinct. He was arrested at 1100 Saturday by a plainclothes policeman on the corner of Cerro Cora and Brasil Streets, where Guerin was distributing pamphlets expressing his union's solidarity with the four sociology students, members of the Movement for University Regrouping, who have been on a hunger strike for 51 days.

ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND MEMBERS SWORN IN

PY031310 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 2 Jan (EFE) -- Today Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde administered the oath of office to the new members of the Armed Forces Joint Command, which is headed by Navy Commander in Chief Vice Admiral Ricardo Zevallos Newton.

The Joint Command is also comprised of Air Force Commander in Chief Lieutenant General Cesar Alejandro Enrico Praelli and Army Commander in Chief General Julian Julia Freire.

During the ceremony, held at the "Golden Hall" of Government House in Lima and attended by the Armed Forces ministers, President Belaunde stressed the "significant role" played by Joint Command members in the defense of national territorial integrity.

Vice Adm Zevallos replaces Gen Carlos Briceno Zevallos as head of the Joint Command. Gen Briceno has retired and his post of Army commander in chief has been taken over by Gen Julian Julia Freire.

PERCOVICH DISCUSSES 1983 ANTI-SUBVERSION RESULTS

PY021530 Paris AFP in Spanish 1823 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 31 Dec (AFP) -- Interior Minister Luis Percovich has said that the anti-subversive struggle was relatively successful in Peru this year, and that Abimael Guzman, chief of the Shining Path, is either dead or is travelling abroad. He added that the current leader of this extremist organization is Antonio Emilio Diaz, arrested days ago, will be placed at the disposal of a Judge next Monday when Haydee Caceres, presumably linked to Guzman, will be sentenced.

It is also possible that next Monday General Adrian Huaman will take over the political-military command of Ayacucho and the remaining emergency zone, replacing Gen Clemente Noel who said farewell to his troops yesterday.

In an evaluation of the results of the Armed Forces and police struggle against the Shining Path, whose actions and repression caused almost 2,000 deaths, the minister said that relative success was achieved. He explained that members of many terrorist cells have been captured in various departments of the country such as Lima, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurimac, Junin, Ancasch, Cusco, Cajamarca, and Libertad.

He added that several attacks on police posts, the Bayer industrial plant in Lima, and the Popular Action Party headquarters in Lima have been cleared up.

Percovich also said that the Department against Terrorism began to operate this year, and that this department will give greater impetus to antisubversive actions in 1984. He added that the bids to equip the police forces concluded this year and that a new security system for banks and money transportation will be approved soon.

Regarding the leadership of the Shining Path, an organization founded by Abimael Guzman, the minister said that Antonio Enillo Diaz is now its chief, since Diaz revealed that Julio Cesar Mezzich, who was believed to be second in command, really has a secondary position along with Osman Morote.

Regarding Guzman, Percovich said: "We know that he is no longer in Peru, and if he were, he would no longer be alive because the illness affecting him (psoriasis) requires treatment in specialized clinics."

Regarding Diaz, wanted for two terrorist attacks, he has been interrogated by the police for the last 3 weeks in the presence of his lawyer, but next Monday he will be handed over to a judge in Lima along with the police report. Next Monday a sentence is also expected for Haydee Caceres, for whom the district attorney asked 10 years imprisonment, including her accomplices Maximo Laura, and Mary Palomino, on charges of terrorist activities.

Caceres has denied being Guzman's lover, admitting only that she was his pupil in Ayacucho. However, in Guzman's biography, she appears as his wife, who had made a pact not to bear children.

In conclusion, Gen Noel -- criticized by the opposition for his repressive methods -- said farewell to his troops yesterday, saying that progress has been made in pacifying the area. He will be replaced by Gen Adrian Huaman who speaks Quechua.

On Anti-Terrorist Measures

PY032000 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1644 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 3 Jan (EFE) -- The white flags that were placed in several locations in Ayacucho and which led the government to believe that the Maoist "Shining Path" guerrilla group desires peace were lowered with an attack that left Lima and several other Peruvian cities in darkness during the first minutes of 1984.

It seems that the alleged "dissidents" of the Maoist group, should there be any, are a small minority, since the acts of violence carried out by this group continue.

Interior Minister Luis Percovich explained that mines will be planted around the high tension pylons to prevent them from being blown up and cutting the energy supply. The minister also explained that members of the Shining Path group have infiltrated the electrical companies, and that these persons supply information on the key towers that should be blown up. According to the minister, one of these persons has already been arrested. Minister Percovich also announced that the foundations of the high tension towers will be reinforced with concrete to make them harder to blow up.

The interior minister pointed out that there are 5,000 pylons in the country and that it is physically impossible to guard them all since there are not enough policemen for that.

In the meantime, the electrical companies announced that the electricity supply has been completely restored after the attack last Sunday that knocked down three towers near the capital.

Minister Percovich also pointed out that the Shining Path group had scheduled greater acts of violence than the blackout of Lima and other cities, but that the "orgy of terror" was thwarted by the police intelligence service.

SHINING PATH INVITED TO AYACUCHO TOWN MEETING

PY031829 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 2 Jan (EFE) -- Today Ayacucho Mayor Leonor Zamora called on the Maoist Shining Path group to participate in a town meeting [cabildo] scheduled for 11 February, while her political party, the PADIN [National Integration Party], has announced that during the town meeting it will request an "amnesty" for the members of the terrorist organization.

Leonor Zamora requested the holding of a town meeting during the ceremony in which she assumed her duties as mayor of the city of Ayacucho, located 575 km southeast of Lima. The mayor said that all representative sectors of Ayacucho and both "recognized and unrecognized" parties have been invited to participate in the meeting.

Deputy Miguel Angel Mufarech, the PADIN leader, has stated in this regard that if it so wishes, Shining Path can participate in these meetings either "openly or privately" through representatives. He described the town meeting as a dialogue to be held by the people of the city of Ayacucho, and that the Maoist organization may express "its opinion or its request."

He said that during the town meeting, PADIN will request amnesty for Shining Path. He added that Shining Path's "sociopolitical attitude is the most important problem that Ayacucho is currently confronting," and that therefore it cannot be left out of the debate. Mufarech said that if Shining Path decides not to participate in the town meeting, PADIN will have complied with its political responsibility, because it has offered them the opportunity to do so.

CIVIL GUARD POST ATTACKED; 3 POLICEMEN KILLED

PY311945 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Excerpt] A group of terrorists or drug traffickers has attacked a Civil Guard post in the town of Tocache in San Martin Department, killing three policemen and wounding three others, according to a report by Interior Minister Luis Percovich.

[Begin Percovich recording] Last night there was an attack against a police post in Nuevo Progreso which belongs to the 18th Civil Guard Command. It is presumed that the attackers were terrorists or drug traffickers. Three members of the Civil Guard on duty were killed, while five members were wounded. The immediate transfer of the wounded has been ordered, and patrols have left in four different directions to pursue the attackers.

[Unidentified reporter] In view of this wave of subversion that seems to be growing, what policy will be followed in 1984, Mr Minister?

[Percovich] A policy has already been implemented. What must be done is to more intensively apply it and determine if these attacks are to be exclusively attributed to terrorism or if there are other attackers. Because of the location of this last attack, as well as some others in the last few months, we might draw the conclusion that the attackers are drug traffickers very closely linked with subversive actions. This will be clarified during the investigation, so the question of identifying the criminals will be very much kept in mind.

The police forces in coordination with the Armed Forces will continue their antisubversive actions with much more effectiveness, apart from the work that is being carried out in other areas to coordinate the antisubversion struggle, not only in the field of police or military operations, but also in the development of the affected areas. [end recording]

SHINING PATH ATTACKS COBRIZA MINE, STORE

PY032108 Paris AFP in Spanish 1916 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 3 Jan (AFP) -- It was officially reported in Lima today that an attack launched by the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla group against the Cobriza mine in Ayacucho Department was repelled by security forces last night. One worker was reported killed while four others suffered bullet wounds.

The guerrillas could not seize the explosives of the mine depot, but managed to loot a store owned by a cooperative, seizing clothing and food.

It was reported that police patrols have begun pursuing the terrorists.

HAVANA ON LABOR PROBLEMS, STRIKES, INSURGENCY

PETROPERU, CORREO Workers Strike

PA301935 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Today, for the 7th consecutive day, the 8,000 PETROPERU [State Petroleum Agency] workers continued their current strike in demand of wage readjustments in line with increases in the cost of living that the managers had promised them after a strike in October.

For their part, 280 miners of (Cata-Acari), who have been in Lima with their relatives for over a year to demand the payment of back wages and the reopening of the mine, continued their hunger strike for the 3d consecutive day, accompanied by women and children. These workers staged a hunger strike last week, which they suspended after 3 days, at the Catholic Church's request, in order to open negotiations. However, since they did not obtain a positive response to their demands, they resumed their voluntary fasting on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the company that edits the newspaper CORREO in Lima announced that it has fired the workers who for the last 6 days have been striking in demand of back wages and an end-of-year bonus. The company also denied the rumors that the newspaper would be closed down due to its criticial economic situation.

For his part, Peruvian Interior Minister Luis Percovich has admitted that the counterinsurgent campaign has not given the results that were officially expected, while adding that in the area of Ayacucho certain zones have already been pacified, and others will be soon.

CORREO Dismisses Workers

PA032005 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] It has been learned in Lima that the company that publishes the newspaper CORREO has decided to dismiss all workers who have been on strike for several days to demand the payment of back wages and a special bonus to which they are entitled.

The company has discarded the reports about the dismissals as rumors and has also denied that it plans to close for economic reasons.

Failure To Stop Insurgency

PA032011 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The Peruvian interior minister said recently that the government's current struggle against the insurgents -- which, according to knowledgeable sources, should have already ended -- is still underway.

This means that the expected results have not been obtained. The minister blamed the guerrillas' continuing struggle on several factors.

'Concentration Camps'

PA311544 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Avilco Arroyo, correspondent for EL DIARIO MARKA in Huanta Province in Ayacucho, has disclosed that three concentration camps are located in that Peruvian region. He added that of the 2,000 people who have disappeared in that region, only 20 percent are alive. Arroyo, who has been arrested three times by the Ayacucho political-military command, has asked the attorney general and the Interior Ministry for guarantees for his life and that of his family in view of the constant death threats.

The journalist indicated that the first concentration camp is located in San Jose de Secce, in a military base where 35 marines and 50 members of the combined forces are stationed. Arroyo added that the second concentration camp is located in Huamanguilla district, and the third is the Huanta municipal stadium, where special torture cells have been installed and where many missing people are being held.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office has asked an investigative judge to begin a judicial process against those presumed responsible for the killing of eight prisoners and a nun at the Luringacho prison. Benjamin Maduen, the prosecutor in charge of investigating the crime, returned the file on the case to Judge Carlos Iturrizaga, an action that press circles view as a maneuver to delay the process.

CHILEAN CITIZEN CARRYING ARMS TO ECUADOR ARRESTED

PY301710 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] A Chilean citizen, who stated that he was a member of the resistance in his country, has been detained in Chiclayo while he was carrying arms to Ecuador hidden in a small car, police sources have reported. The police identified the detainee as (Julio Tapia Arraya), 32, born in Santiago, Chile, but residing in Lima, where he is running a decorator shop.

The following arms have been seized: 5 .9-cal submachineguns, a hand grenade, and 34 bombs. The police has reported that the arms and the explosives, all of which lack trademarks and serial numbers, were carried by (Tapia Arraya) hidden in a small car that he was driving to Quito, Eucador.

(Tapia) initially identified himself as an Argentine citizen showing a passport issued to (Roberto Martinez). (Tapia) said that he was carrying the arms to Quito for delivery to a woman, who he identified just by the name of Rosaura.

WEEKLY SEIZED; INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS

PY310140 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The government has seized the latest issue of the weekly CORREO DE LOS VIERNES. The publishers informed Carve that after the weekly had been printed, it was subjected to censorship; government officials then decided to seize the issue on charges of violating existing regulations. The weekly was also subjected to censorship last week.

Last week, the president of the republic and the interior and defense ministers decided to seize the weeklies BUSQUEDA and LA DEMOCRACIA.

The publishers of the weeklies LA DEMOCRACIA and JAQUE, and of CONVICCION, a labor union magazine, decided to suspend publication in view of the existing policy of prior restraint.

Interior Minister Hugo Linares Brum has told reporters that for the time being the government will maintain the validity of the decree issued on 2 August 1983 forbidding the dissemination of all kinds of comments and reports, either live or recorded, on political matters.

NEWSPAPER DIRECTOR DETAINED AFTER DEMONSTRATION

PY301954 Paris AFP in Spanish 1505 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 30 Dec (AFP) -- Employees of the weekly CONVICCION, which follows a labor union political line, today reported that Oscar Edgardo Etiez, director of the weekly, was detained last night in the vicinity of a protest demonstration. The protest was started along Montevideo's 18 de Julio Avenue. Etiez is being held at an antiriot police station.

The demonstration began when German Araujo, the director of the radio station CX-30 La Radio, lifted his hunger strike protesting the closure of his station. The demonstration, staged by thousands of people, ended with clashes between the police and the demonstrators. Several people were slightly injured and about 100 persons were reported arrested.

CONVICCION reporters noted that Etiez did not participate either in the demonstration or in the incidents and that he was detained in a bar near the demonstrations.

Havana Notes Arrest

PA311541 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Oscar Edgardo Etiez, director of the Uruguayan political weekly CONVICCION, was detained Thursday near 18 July Avenue in Montevideo, where hundreds of persons were staging a demonstration, which police violently repressed. The demonstrators were expressing their solidarity with Jose German Araujo, director of the radio station CX-30 La Radio, who staged an 11-day hunger strike to protest the closing of his radio station.

OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS ATTACKED WITH BOMBS

PY021520 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1701 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Durazno (Uruguay), 30 Dec (EFE) -- Three attacks with home-made bombs were carried out against the property of three leaders of the Nacional or Blanco Party, one of the two traditional opposition parties in Uruguay. The attacks occurred in the pre-dawn hours in this city, 180 km north of Montevideo.

The first bomb was placed against the door of Angel Nunez' home. Nunez is Durazno's departmental president of the National Party. The home-made bomb, made of fuel and powder in a nylon bag, failed to go off but caused a fire in the house.

The second attack, which took place shortly afterwards against the car of Enrique Urthe, member of the electoral board and militant of the Blanco Party, caused the car to explode.

A similar bomb was placed at almost the same time in the car of Enrique Beriaum, also a Blanco Party convention member, but failed to go off.

There were no previous threats, and no one has claimed responsibility in any of the three cases. The reports are being investigated by the departmental police.

The only common factor in the three attacks is that they were carried out against members of the National Party's For the Fatherland faction which is led by exile Wilson Ferreyra Aldunate, and which recently organized excursions to Argentina to attend the inauguration of Raul Alfonsin and to meet with Ferreyra Aldunate.

IMPLICATIONS OF NIGERIAN COUP ON OPEC, CARACAS

'Price War'

PA030315 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2355 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Caracas, 2 Jan (EFE) -- The New Year's Eve coup d'etat that overthrew Nigerian President Shehu Shagari might unleash a price war among OPEC member countries. Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon, Venezuelan mines and energy minister, made this statement in Caracas today.

The minister said that a price war would force Venezuela to lower its prices and increase its production. He said that it can almost be taken for granted that Nigeria will lower its oil prices and increase its production, violating all OPEC agreements.

The minister said, "This price war, which might begin in Nigeria, would be followed by northern countries like Great Britain and Sweden, who would also lower their prices." He also stressed that there is a latent threat from Saudi Arabia, which has huge oil stocks and could flood the market in the event of a price war, thus increasing the danger to Venezuela. He said that the Venezuelan Government is closely watching developments in Nigeria and their consequences in order to prevent any threat that might endanger our country. He added that Venezuela should be alert to steps adopted by other OPEC member countries, because if there is a price war, Venezuela would have to lower its oil prices and increase its production so as not to lose customers and to be able to compete with other countries, including Mexico, which -- although not an OPEC member -- would also be affected.

Herrera on Nigerian Coup

AU030901 Rome ANSA in English 0847 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] (ANSA) -- Caracas, January 3 -- The coup d'etat [words indistinct] Saturday that deposed the civilian government of Shehu Shagari in Nigeria has raised concern in Venezuela for the immediate future of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the development of democracy in Africa. Both Venezuela and Nigeria are partners in OPEC and count almost exclusively on their oil for foreign currency.

In an informal conversation with the ANSA correspondent here, Venezuelan head-of-state, Luis Herrera Campins, said he had considered Nigeria the most important African democracy.

The advent of Major General Mohammad Buhari at the head of a military regime has changed this situation, although it remains to be seen to what extent, Herrera Campins continued. He noted that General Buhari had been head of the Nigerian Energy Agency from 1976 to 1979 and that he was esteemed in oil circles.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco noted that an oil agreement (of no great importance) has been in force between Caracas and Lagos for some time (word indistinct] and Venezuela sells the same amount to Nigeria to produce lubricants.

The situation in Lagos strongly affects the democratic process in Africa as well as the world oil market. Thus, Caracas is following events there closely and is "impatient to know more", the head of state said.

PAPER COMMENTS ON U.S.-NICARAGUAN RELATIONS

PA301538 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Dec 83 p 6-A

[Editorial: "Reagan's Haggling"]

[Text] The confrontation between the governments of Managua and Washington continues like a tug of war, with haggling over the rights allegedly claimed by the U.S. President and the concessions that Managua is apparently granting within the framework of a hypothetical tendency to find the coveted agreement that will put an end to the threat posed by the forces active near its borders.

The secretary of state has admitted that the partial amnesty and the announcement that elections will be held in Nicaragua differ widely from the stand held 6 months ago, but Ronald Reagan feels that neither of these measures is relevant and that the Sandinists should "do much more on the domestic and international level if they want to maintain good relations with the White House."

Let us hope that all of W[illegible]ington's requirements share the common denominator of the pacification of Nicaragua, in which case the agreement reached might be immediately applied to other countries where democracy is hardly anything more than a dream, but which nonetheless enjoy U.S. support.

Latin America's panorama will surely clear up once the commendable concern over the holding of elections in Nicaragua and the respect for all kinds of human rights are extended to those nations that still suffer under the dictatorial boot of military domination, including some in Central America that have showed disapproval of the Sandinist regime.

It is not clear what Reagan's criteria are for granting the favor of "good relations" to either Nicaragua or any other country. Any specification in this connection would be well received, if implemented in a general and equitable way, for it is not in accord with a democratic, libertarian, and just policy to demand that human rights be respected in certain nations but not in others.

NEW COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SPAIN

FL311955 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1810 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Mexico, 31 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Spain have signed a complementary technical cooperation agreement for the development of a social and labor program, according to a statement by Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare Arsenio Farell Cubillas, who pointed out that the document was drawn up within the framework of the basic scientific and technical agreement signed in 1977 by both countries. The aim of the new agreement is to augment and strengthen relations in the social and labor fields.

The areas of Spanish-Mexican cooperation provided for in the agreement are those related to employment, training, productivity, work safety and hygiene, social organization of work, labor studies, statistics, and labor matters, he explained.

The agreement stipulates that the Spanish Government agrees to pay for the training of 170 experts and to grant scholarships in Spain for the same number of employees of the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare, Farell Cubillas added. The agreement was signed by Spanish Ambassador to Mexico Emilio Cassinello Auban.

PSUM HIGHLIGHTS DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

For the apparent text of the Political Resolution approved by the Second Congress of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico on 12 August 1983, see JPRS LATIN AMERICA REPORT No 2773 (JPRS No 84930) for 12 December 1983, pp 75-89.

PNP LEADERS SUPPORT PACT WITH PAREDES

PA310005 Panama City YA in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 3

[Communique issued by the National Directorate and the Consultative Political Commission of the Popular Nationalist Party; dated 27 December 1983 -- boldface as published]

[Text] The POPULAR NATIONALIST PARTY, PNP, has reached an electoral political agreement with [Retired] General Ruben Dario Paredes, with the intention of presenting a presidential nomination for the May-June 1984 elections.

Therefore, as leaders of the PNP we wish to inform our people that we resolutely support this historic agreement, since we believe that it demonstrates priority interest in seeking solutions to grave national problems, for which we have repeatedly proposed a NATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

We call on all honest Panamanians who do not want to find themselves trapped in the vortex of antipatriotic sectarianism to join this proposal, which is aimed at achieving effective and permanent progress toward full democratization of our national life, without retaliations.

WE CAN WIN IF WE FIGHT

Panama City, 27 December 1983

NATIONAL DIRECTORATE

Ernesto Munoz Gamboa, Guillermo Rios Valdes, Avelino Vasquez, Dailys E. de Broce, Jose Manuel Adames G., Miriam Sanchez, Eligio Hernandez K., Melquiades Medina A., Alejandro Garrido A., Jose de Jesus Crespo, Cesar Solano, Jorge Zuniga Sanchez, Pedro Moreno L., Jose Manuel Torres R., Fernando Gutierrez P., Rolando Marcos Hermoso, Ramon E. Cepeda M., Esteban Garcia, Teofilo Perez, Hector Infante B.

CONSULTATIVE POLITICAL COMMISSION

Olmedo Ceballos R., Roberto Fuentes, Irma Arauz, Jorge Flores, Roberto Broce, Raymundo Hurtado Lay, Gilberto A. Gomez.

HEART, REASON, AND FIST OF THE GREAT MAJORITY

Paredes Issues New Year Message

PA031946 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] General Ruben Dario Paredes, presidential candidate in the upcoming elections, has issued the following message:

To my fellow citizens: The beginning of each year has traditionally been seen as the ideal time to set goals, make resolutions, and commit oneself to special work and sacrifices aimed at achieving difficult and farsighted objectives.

Paredes added that as we now enter what will be the most crucial year in determining the homeland's future, this is the best time to call for mediation regarding our immediate future, and to commit ourselves firmly to achieve, with the necessary effort, the total rectification of past mistakes, to return to the Panamanians faith in the authorities, in justice, and in the safeguarding of honesty, morale, respect, and national dignity.

The retired general pointed out: Over a year ago, when I had the opportunity to do so, my goal was to achieve the country's total democratization to return power to its natural source, the people. To this effect, Paredes said, purging operations that ended in constitutional amendments were carried out. They were overwhelmingly approved in public referendums, to guarantee free elections for the Republic's president. My efforts caused concern and were hindered by certain sectors, which I have finally decided to face, armed only with the forces of civilian status and the law.

In his message Gen Paredes pointed out: Today I would like to reiterate to the city workers, peasants, my brothers in uniform, businessmen, professionals, Indians, students, teachers, women from all places and conditions, and particularly to the always generous and idealistic youth, that with their help and participation, I will redouble my efforts to restore optimism and faith in Panama and the Panamanians, without persecution, vengeance, or fear, but with total compliance with the law to ensure fraternal peace.

Finally, Gen Paredes sent cordial greetings and sincere wishes to all Panamanians for a prosperous, happy, and fulfilling new year.

PDC PRESIDENT SEEKS UNITY OF OPPOSITION PARTIES

PA031541 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Video interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Political Committee of the Christian Democratic Party, by station reporter Julio Miller; date and place not given; recorded -- video not available]

[Text] [Arias Calderon] I regret to announce that formal talks held among the Authentic Panamenist Party, MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], the Authentic Liberal Party, and the PDC came to an end without yielding the results the Panamanian people had hoped for.

During these talks the PDC was willing to accept anything that would have assured the broadest unity of the democratic opposition. The PDC was also willing to give up anything that would have stood in the way of that unity. None of the proposals we submitted during the talks were of a final nature, because we wanted to reach common agreement on a presidential nomination by the democratic opposition.

Since these talks have come to an end without positive results, the PDC announces: First, we wish to reiterate our desire to present, as soon as possible, an electoral alternative that is clear and firm and contributes as much as possible to the unity of the democratic opposition; and second, we are going to hold talks in the coming days with other democratic parties of the opposition to discuss specific possibilities for unity.

The nation at this time needs clarity and firmness from the democratic opposition. The PDC is going to meet this demand. The hour of decision has arrived, and we are going to make the decisions that are necessary.

[Miller] Dr Arias Calderon, you said that the hour of decision has arrived; however, looking at the situation, we see that the opposition is running out of time before the May 1984 elections. What is preventing the opposition from reaching a specific and definite agreement?

[Arias Calderon] We have until 14 January, the date of our convention for the nomination of the presidential candidate, to achieve the broadest unity.

[Miller] Dr Arias Calderon, you did not answer my question. I asked you what interests prevail among members of the opposition that prevent a consensus on a candidacy?

[Arias Calderon] More than interest, I would say it is a matter of viewpoint. The PDC has made proposals that are not of a final nature, but others have made proposals that are unconditional. This prevented the reaching of an agreement during the talks that just ended.

[Miller] What do you see as one group's unconditional attitude and another group's flexible position?

[Arias Calderon] In some cases the nomination of candidates and pre-candidates was submitted for discussion, expecting that we could reach common agreement. In another instance, there was a nomination that was submitted as definite, and not as a subject for discussion.

[Miller] Dr Arias Calderon, what will happen, in view of the situation during the talks, if by 14 January you have not reached an agreement?

[Arias Calderon] I hope the democratic sectors of the opposition will make a quick reevaluation of the situation so that the democratic opposition can reach the broadest possible unity. The PDC has always said that if the democratic opposition failed to achieve unity, it would present a very firm opposition to the present regime by itself.

[Miller] Dr Arias Calderon, you said that it is not a matter of interests, but of approach. However, is this difference of approach that you mention so basic as to prevent the reaching of a definitive agreement, even at this point in the electoral process?

[Arias Calderon] If it is, then history will have to assign the blame.

[Miller] Dr Arias Calderon, in your opinion, if a united candidacy is not achieved by 14 January, what can the opposition expect in the 1984 elections?

[Arias Calderon] There are two possible kinds of unity open to the democratic opposition. There is the unity that is achieved formally, through party representatives. This is the kind that is facing difficulty. However, another kind of unity is available if the first is not achieved. The rank and file of the democratic opposition parties and independent public opinion, through the electoral process itself, will single out the candidate who is most representative of a clear and firm opposition and give their support to that candidate. Thus, in the reality of political life, there could be a united democratic opposition even if a formal union is not achieved.

COMMENTARY EXAMINES CANAL STAFF REDUCTIONS

PA032110 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 84

["Setting the Course" Commentary]

[Text] The charge raised recently by several media that attempts are being made to reduce the number of Panamanian personnel working at the Panama Canal in order to subsidize U.S. officials and workers must be very much taken into account by the government and the community in general.

It has been explained that a considerable number of positions which are currently held by Panamanians be eliminated in order to subsidize the North American personnel whose income will be affected by the termination of their purchase privileges at the so-called commissaries in the former canal zone.

As a result of the gradual enforcement of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, commissaries will disappear and, therefore, all residents in the canal area will have to buy on the national market. Obviously, this will affect those who have enjoyed a special consumer status for many years.

Nobody is opposed to consideration of mechanisms that would take into account the interests of those who will be affected. However, what is not acceptable is that measures be adopted against the interests of Panamanian workers and to the detriment of our sovereignty and the rights embodied in the spirit and letter of the canal treaties.

Panamanian labor leaders have repeatedly recommended that the Panama Canal Commission authorities adopt practical measures to lower canal operating costs. It is advisable that these recommendations be taken into account during this year that has just begun which, according to those authorities, will be a difficult one for the canal. They should also adopt the Panamanian workers' idea that when the time comes to make personnel reductions, such reductions should be made from top to bottom -- that is, not precisely at the levels at which Panamanians are employed. This has been the case in the past and is now planned for the immediate future.

This policy rescinds the gradual elimination of the dual salary scale and represents a mockery to our country, because it maintains an opprobrious discrimination which not only violates the Torrijos-Carter treaties but strongly harms our relations with the U.S. Government.

Therefore, the actions of the Panama Canal Commission authorities in this regard must be closely watched because this matter involves not only the rights of our workers but interests which are of great importance to all Panamanians.

BRIEFS

NEW CONEP PRESIDENT -- Gabriel Diez was elected president of the National Council of Private Enterprise, CONEP, in the elections held to choose the new board of directors for the first half of 1984. [Summary] [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Dec 83 pp 1, D 8 PA]

COSTA RICA

DISARRAY, 'REPRESSION' WITHIN PVP DESCRIBED

PA020430 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 23 Dec 83 pp 1, 6A

[By Victor Hugo Vargas, reporter for LA NACION]

[Text] The Popular Vanguard Party (PVP) has unleashed what has been described as "Stalinist"-style repression of all those who dare demand an explanation from the party's Central Committee regarding the replacement of PVP Secretary General Manuel Mora Valverde.

A source close to the Mora Valverde family (brothers Manuel and Eduardo) said that the committee has imposed a ban on two party members who are also members of the youth group participating in political activities. Fernando Chaves Molina, a militant in the PVP for 50 years, was also suspended from his positions within the party for 6 months because he asked party leaders to objectively inform the rank and file about what had occurred.

Deputy Arnoldo Ferreto (PVP, Puntarenas), who promoted Mora's replacement by former legislator Humberto Vargas Carbonell, confirmed that Chaves was sanctioned "because he disclosed party secrets, which is intolerable."

The secrets Ferreto referred to concern Chaves Molina's disclosure of the existence of a letter from Manuel Mora to the committee, in which he admitted that his party was divided. In his note, Chaves demanded a report on the reasons for Mora's replacement. He also mentioned details regarding how things have been handled recently by the PVP Central Committee.

Ferreto added that "if such behavior is not permitted of party militants, even less is it permitted of a Central Committee member, because this situation had never occurred since the party was formed."

It was learned that the ban on members of the youth group stirred up such a reaction that the last plenary meeting of the committee had to be suspended after the decision was announced.

It was said that these methods had never been applied within the party or the youth group, and therefore more than half the members decided to break the quorum as a sign of protest.

Pressure for debate concerning Manuel Mora's replacement continues. Our informant stressed that this pressure will continue unceasingly, but will intensify when Manuel Mora returns to the country.

The veteran Communist leader is currently in Cuba, where he accompanied his son -- who is named after him -- as well as his son's wife and children, who left to live in that country in view of kidnapping threats against the two minors that they have received here.

EL SALVADOR

COPREFA ADMITS OVER 100 KILLED IN EL PARAISO

PA032340 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] COPREFA, the Armed Forces Press Committee, has issued the following report:

El Paraiso, the altar of men fighting for their fatherland.

The following personnel were killed while fighting heroically during the attack on the El Paraiso military garrison by extremists: Colonel Jose Ricardo Vasquerano, cadets Freddy Hugo Panameno and Ivan Dario Menjivar, and more than 100 soldiers. Fifteen were killed by the FMLN hordes at the (Suyapa) Bridge, 4 km west of El Paraiso.

El Paraiso, 3 km from the city of Chalatenango, in the department of the same name, suffered the destruction of part of its facilities.

The attack by the FMLN terrorists began Friday at 0200, with 81-mm mortar fire and Chinese-made cannon. The rebels attacked the El Paraiso garrison and the 1st Military Detachment in Chalatenango, the latter as a diversionary tactic. The detachment sustained no damage, and there were no fatalities among the soldiers.

Approximately 10 hours elapsed between the attack and the occupation of El Paraiso by the terrorists. During this time, the soldiers at the base defended their installation heroically. When it became obvious that the enemy forces outnumbered the soldiers, Colonel Vasquerano personally ordered the troops to leave the base and go to the nearest military posts in order to prevent more fatalities and to assist the civilian population in the area.

The rest of the contingent based in El Paraiso was participating in combing operations and searching for guerrillas in areas near the Cerron Grande and 5 de Noviembre dams, which provide electricity for 70 percent of the country.

On Friday, at 1200, after 10 hours of heroic resistance, the terrorist hordes finally occupied the military base when the officers in command had already offered their lives on behalf of the sacred national interests. The Armed Forces began rescue operations very early, but they were hampered by terrorist booby traps and bombs placed in the areas surrounding the military base.

At 1700 sharp, our troops recovered El Paraiso. Simultaneously, additional units pursued the extremists, who fled in disarray toward various hills in the department. Thus far, it has been determined that at least 250 extremists were killed during their attack on the El Paraiso military garrison.

The radio communications room and the command facilities suffered the most serious damage during the first hours of the attack. One powder magazine, which housed dynamite for civilian use, was also destroyed by a time bomb intended to kill the soldiers who recovered El Paraiso.

The attack of El Paraiso was aimed at diverting public opinion from the serious defeats that the FMLN has been suffering in the eastern region and raising the somber morale of the divided PFL force following the internal purge resulting from the murder of their top leaders, Salvador Cayetano Carpio and Melida Anaya.

Col Jose Ricardo Vasquerano occupies an important place in the histroy of our fatherland and is an example of the high spirit of sacrifice within the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

FMLN on Fate of Army Officers

PA312145 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people, attention national and international press:

We have learned through reports broadcast at noon today by local stations that COPREFA's [Armed Forces Press Committee] high command has begun to accept the overwhelming reality, the striking results achieved yesterday by our battalions of the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza unit in the Department of Chalatenango. At noon today, we noted that the enemy -- the fascist high command headed by criminal Vides Casanova -- publicly disclosed the death of Lieutenant Colonel Jose Ricardo Vasquerano, deputy commander of what used to be the 4th Infantry Brigade, in the attack carried out by our revolutionary artillery units. We challenge the fascist high command to report the whereabouts of the dozen of officers who were in charge of the brigade's command. The high command, Vides Casanova, and deceitful COPREFA are hiding from relatives, mothers, brothers and sisters the fate of the dozens of officers who were at the now-nonexistent 4th Infantry Brigade. We challenge the fascist high command to disclose the names of the dozen of officers who were in command at the vanished 4th Infantry Brigade.

ARMY PURSUES REBELS, BROADENS SECURITY MEASURES

PA032145 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] According to military sources in the country's eastern and central regions, counterinsurgency operations are continuing in seven Salvadoran departments.

The Armed Forces have continued combing operations in the departments of Morazan, La Union, San Miguel, Usulutan, Cuscatlan, La Paz San Vicente, and Chalatenango, pursuing rebels harassing military positions in various parts of the country. Initial reports note that during the last week of 1983, 12 rebel camps were dismantled in various parts of the country. Additional reports are expected, detailing the number of casualties suffered by the leftists during the counterinsurgency operations. The Army has implemented broad security on the coastal highway at the beginning of the year. In order to protect the thousands of passengers, drivers, and people traveling from the eastern part of the country to San Salvador and vice versa, military personnel -- particularly members of the counterinsurgency battalions trained in the United States -- have occupied a sector approximately 25 km long between Zacatecoluca, San Vicente, and Usulutan. The action was taken to provide the necessary security for passengers returning to San Salvador and other places in the central and western region, who are subjected to holdups or attacks by common criminals or rebels demanding the notorious war taxes.

PLN, ESA DENY U.S. 'DEATH SQUAD' CHARGES

PA040135 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Party of National Liberation and its armed branch, the Secret Anti-Communist Army; date and place not given]

[Text] The Party of National Liberation, PLN, and its armed branch, the Secret Anti-Communist Army, ESA, considering the latest political developments at the national and international levels, inform the Salvadoran people of the following:

The PLN and its armed branch, the ESA, view as their main enemies the FMLN Marxist-Leninists and other organizations or political parties that endanger our state security and our national sovereignty.

The war situation in our country makes it difficult for the nation to act with the economic and political freedom necessary to achieve a level of development that will give us enough independence not to depend on aid from foreign countries whose sole interest is subjugating such free countries as El Salvador, as part of their expansionist plans.

Therefore, we oppose, politically and militarily, any foreign intervention in our country. This does not mean that we reject economic aid from other countries, which we are not opposed to, as long as it is given without conditions.

We will not allow the gringos to make decisions here regarding changes in the Armed Forces high command. This kind of order only confirms U.S. political and military intervention. Nor will we accept groundless charges by the gringos against officers and civilians accused of being members of the wrongly called death squads, based on declarations made by FMLN terrorists. We feel that neither the gringos nor the FMLN have the moral right to make such accusations.

The only thing gained by this kind of position is danger to the lives of the officers and civilians who face these charges, as well as the lives of their relatives, since FMLN terrorists will not hesitate to add more victims. This gringo attitude only abets the objectives of international communism.

Therefore, we hold the Armed Forces high command and the gringos responsible for whatever happens to these persons and their relatives. We want to make it clear that the PLN and its armed branch, the ESA, are not a death squad. We are a political-military organization with a well-defined ideological-political line, fighting international communism and corruption and defending our national sovereignty.

In conclusion, we consider that elections represent the correct path the Salvadoran people should follow to restore democracy. Therefore, we support the current electoral process, which we will follow attentively, ready to reveal and report any maneuver or sabotage by the FMLN terrorists or any other group.

For our national sovereignty, without foreign intervention! No uniformed men or civilians in exile! We have struggled, and will struggle today, tomorrow, and always!

[Signed] Commander Aquiles Baires, joint chief of staff; Commander Adolfo Torres, head of the political commission; Commander Jorge Palomo, head of the military commission

ARMED FORCES MEETING, PROMOTIONS POLICY DISCUSSED

PA040205 Paris AFP in Spanish 1510 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 3 Jan (AFP) -- The Salvadoran Armed Forces General Staff yesterday held an extraordinary meeting that lasted nearly the entire day to discuss the situation in the wake of the latest blow by the guerrillas in the northern and eastern part of the country.

Although details were not given, it was said that the status of the El Paraiso garrison in Chalatenango Department, which will be rebuilt, was discussed. Colonel Alberto Morales Ruiz, who was absent on 30 December, the day of the attack, will retain his post.

Meanwhile, a military source told AFP that the Salvadoran Armed Forces have granted promotions throughout the military ranks, thus varying the policy applied previously to the military changes that occur annually on 31 December.

He added that this is an attempt to motivate "everyone, especially those who are on the battlefield," noting that this time there are no large turnovers in the Salvadoran armed branch.

The most important change is that Colonel Humberto Villalba, appointed commander of the general traffic department in November, was today promoted to the post of navy commander, replacing Colonel Roberto Monterosa, who was transferred to another post in public administration.

FMLN SAYS NEW ACTIONS 'SHATTER' U.S. TACTICS

PA012220 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Today, 1 January, at 0050, the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade began its advance toward the Cuscatlan Bridge and the defensive positions around the 15 September Dam. At this moment, the Cuscatlan Bridge is submerged in the waters of the Lempa River and traffic on the Pan-American Highway is interrupted because of the destruction of this important bridge.

This action by our revolutionary army comes after Lieutenant Colonel Domingo Monterrosa carried out foolish and futile operations in San Miguel and Morazan Departments, where he paraded around without achieving a single victory or seizing a single rifle. He was unable to show any evidence of his boast of victory in these senseless and useless operations. A few hours ago, Lt Col Domingo Monterrosa was announcing with fanfare that he was beginning in Usulutan Department the biggest operation by the dictatorship thus far in the war. Despite the use of the imperialist planes and the bombs supplied by Reagan, and commensurate with the supposedly biggest operation by Domingo Monterrosa, our revolutionary army has destroyed the Cuscatlan Bridge and the 15 September Dam's electric substation.

On 30 December our revolutionary army dealt a heavy blow to the dictatorship with the destruction of the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso. Today, 1 January, it left submerged in the waters of the Lempa River the important Cuscatlan Bridge on the Pan-American Highway. These two victories shatter the U.S. tactics. These two great revolutionary victories destroy the political-military plans of Ronald Reagan, who will be unable to keep the oppressive chains on our people, who deserve to be free.

FARABUNDO MARTI REVIEWS 29 DEC-1 JAN ACTIONS

PA040240 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Long live our battle-seasoned guerrillas and our people's militia! Our militia and guerrilla units accompany our people's army in this hour of overwhelming victories. Waging war at all levels with small, medium, and big blows, our armed people intensify the enemy army's attrition and the crushing sabotage of the regime's war economy.

On 29 December, 18 km along the northern trunk road, at a place known as Guaycume, our forces harassed a convoy of the puppet army with rifle fire. During the clash, we inflicted several casualties.

On 30 December, our militia and guerrilla units took El Carmen farm for the second time. This farm is located near Chichontepec volcano, west of the city of San Vicente. Our forces assembled more than 600 workers and carried out aggressive propaganda activities in support of the victory of our people's army in Chalatenango.

On 31 December, our people's militia blew up a powerline tower on the Pan-American Highway near El Junquillal canton. On the same day, other militia units blew up two other powerline towers along the same highway, near La Cruzadilla of Apastepeque, and disseminated propaganda on the victories in Chalatenango.

Early on 1 January, our daring people's militias entered the city of Zacatecoluca, outwitting the complex security network, and distributed propaganda in the Analco and 27 de Septiembre neighborhood. On the same day, on the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, FMLN rebel units launched an attack on enemy positions on (Pena Colorada) Hill, located on Guazapa Hill, annihilating a trench. Our forces recovered a PRC-77 military radio set and other materiel. The enemy suffered four dead and three wounded. [Words indistinct] blew up a powerline tower in Soliman canton, Santa Ana Department.

The continual sabotage is a forceful weapon to defeat the enemy. Long live the seasoned people's militias! Long live the fearsome guerrilla units!

FMLN CHARGES AIR FORCE BOMBED PERQUIN 1 JAN

PA040331 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] In a new criminal action, the dictatorship's air force bombed the center of the town of Perquin, in Morazan Department. On the afternoon of 1 January, a light plane and an A-37 plane of the Salvadoran Air Force dropped bombs and fired rockets in an irresponsible and indiscriminate action in northern Morazan Department.

Once again, genocidal Domingo Monterrosa, desperate and powerless hours after we blew up the well-guarded Cuscatlan Bridge, irresponsibly ordered reprisal against the civilizn population. This is how the high command uses the planes and bombs sent by Ronald Reagan.

FMLN GENERAL COMMAND RELEASES YEAR-END MESSAGE

PA011434 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0050 GMT 1 Jan 84

[End-of-year message released by the FMLN General Command in "El Salvador" on 31 December -- read by announcer]

[Text] For the Salvadoran people, this day brings to an end a year of fruitful revolutionary struggle led and directed by the FMLN, which in 1983 achieved great victories and political and military advances that have already brought the epic of their liberation practically to its victorious culmination. In this struggle, the unlimited heroism and unshakable determination to defeat the dictatorship and become the masters of their own destiny shown by the revolutionary and democratic units and forces have been an unquenchable source of energy and inspiration for an unswerving advance, even at the cost of incredible privation and suffering.

Throughout 1983, through constant action, the FMLN consolidated its internal unity and made it irreversible, and decisively accumulated forces and capable military and political leadership that deeply demoralized the Armed Forces of the dictatorship, despite the firm support it receives from the U.S. Government.

Meanwhile, in the context of unceasing and increasingly great military defeats, the caricature of a government led by Magana, the high command, the Constituent Assembly, and the political parties that serve as a chorus for the oligarchy and the Yankee ambassador, plagued with conflict, were desperately increasing their acts of genocide. More than 6,000 unarmed persons have been killed by the Army, the security forces, and the death squads.

While the entrails of the regime were being rotted by corruption and demoralization, these groups were becoming true puppets of Ronald Reagan's government, servants of his policy of aggression against the peoples, and fawning supporters of his delirious race toward the nuclear destruction of the world.

In 1983, the FMLN inflicted 7,169 casualties on the Armed Forces, captured 1,768 prisoners, seized 3,690 weapons in combat and dislodged forces of the dictatorship from vast territories where those forces now present themselves only occasionally, in fleeting, nervous patrols. Over 60 of El Salvador's municipalities are within the territories controlled by the FMLN. In most of these areas, the organs of the people's power have been established and production, commerce, services, education, and religious and cultural activities are being reactivated in conditions of security and peace, interrupted only by the brutal bombings by the air force.

The FMLN defeated the Reagan government's efforts to change the military balance of forces in favor of the puppet army by training and equipping new battalions, providing huge quantities of weapons, and formulating, implementing, and supervising the so-called CONARA [National Commission for the Reconstruction of Affected Areas] Rehabilitation Plan in San Vicente and Usulutan Departments.

The "Independence, Liberty, and Democracy for El Salvador" campaign, begun on 3 September with the artillery attack on the 3d Brigade's headquarters in San Miguel, and the "Yankees, Out of Grenada and Central America" campaign, begun on 30 October with the occupation of Tejutepeque in Cabanas Department, put an end to the illusions and the noisy victory propaganda of the U.S. Pentagon and the puppet high command regarding an alleged FMLN retreat. This led to a new crisis of leadership within the puppet army, as a result of the Yankee decision that it should undergo a new reorganization for the second time in less than a year; the repetition of the hackneyed announcements of the application of a new and effective counterinsurgency tactic, quote, unquote, which were immediately shown as ridiculous by the revolutionary triumphs at Cacahuatique Hill and Ciudad Barrios; and a noisy, isolated, and absolutely useless deployment of the battalions led by Colonel Domingo Monterrosa to some areas in northern Morazan Department, from which they returned just as soon as they had arrived.

The year 1983 dispelled the mirage of peace, democratization, social justice and national unity that the U.S. Government and its servants tried to create on the basis of the electoral farce of 28 March 1982. However, the government that emerged after 18 March promoted an increase in U.S. military intervention, and refused to negotiate for peace with the FMLN-FDR, thereby prolonging the war.

The hypocrisy of the announcement made by the Reagan government and Alvaro Magana's puppet government to the effect that they would seek a path of talks for peace through U.S. special ambassador Richard Stone and the so-called Peace Commission led by Francisco Quinonez, the millionaire and reactionary oligarch, was demonstrated.

The FMLN and FDR tested and unmasked those attempts to deceive the Salvadoran and U.S. peoples and world opinion by taking serious proposals to the meetings with these gentlemen, in line with the actual military and political situation existing in our country at present. Of course, the formula of participation in the elections to which Stone and the Peace Commission stubbornly clung was merely a deliberate maneuver to prevent a real and just political solution to the war, not because they feel that they are winning, but because, in the anguish of their death throes, the oligarchs and their dictatorship are clinging to the hope of salvaging their dominant position and unjust social system through an invasion by the Yankees and CONDECA [Central American Defense Council] of our country and Nicaragua. For his part, Reagan hopes to make El Salvador and Central America a virtual U.S. colony and military base to attack Cuba, sink the claws of blackmail into Mexico, and irremediably imprison all of Latin America.

To ask that we disarm is tantamount to demanding that we surrender. However, they have failed to achieve this on the field of battle, and they realize that they will never be able to achieve it at the negotiations table. It is clear, we repeat, that on proposing this as the sole formula for dialogue, Stone and the Peace Commission intended to have the talks fail and pave the way for an invasion by the Yankees and CONDECA.

Therefore, the promise that the government resulting from the electoral farce of 28 March would bring peace to the country -- a promise by which the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and other parties, as well as the State Department itself, were able to bring some of the voters to the polls -- has been revealed to have always been a lie, a means of covering up genocide, a form of deceiving the people, and a betrayal of the fatherland, which they really plan to submerge in blood, more destruction, and more demoralization under fire from Yankee troops. It is no coincidence that Alvaro Magana's puppet government and the bloody, expansionist Government of Israel have been the only ones to support Reagan in the United States [as heard] with regard to his dastardly and criminal invasion of the tiny island of Grenada.

The oligarchy and the capitulating armed forces would prefer to see El Salvador share Grenada's fate rather than negotiate a fair peace to bring to an end the war that they imposed on the Salvadoran people and that they are now losing.

However, they will not be successful with this sinister plan, either. If the invading troops come to our land, they will encounter firm, unyielding, expert, and effective resistance from all of the people, led by the FMLN. El Salvador is not and will not be Grenada.

The great masses of honest workers and intellectuals will not struggle alone. At this time, at the cost of their blood and their lives, they are the repositories and standardbearers of patriotism, the heirs of the forefathers of national independence. In addition, a great number of the enlisted men, NCO's and officers of the Armed Forces will join in the national cause, as well most of the members of the middle class and some of the capitalists. The FMLN will do everything in its power to promote this broad patriotic alliance and to ensure a place in the fighting ranks for anyone who decides to struggle to safeguard national independence and dignity and to make our land an inferno for the invaders.

2. [as heard; no number 1 given] The government that emerged after 28 March has further trampled on human rights and democracy. It retained the state of siege and increased repression of the people and their labor, trade, scientific, cultural, political, and other organizations and institutions. It promoted the reign of the death squads and the massacre of civilians by the Armed Forces air and infantry forces. This is the truth of the much-vaunted process of democratization mentioned by Reagan and the Salvadoran politicians who are committed to him.

3. The new Constitution was promulgated on 20 December after 1 and 1/2 years of the indulgent functioning of the Constituent Assembly at a cost of many millions, which is an insult to the people who are enduring hunger, misery, and oppression.

It has dashed expectations and hopes of an agrarian reform that had been demagogically cultivated among broad peasant sectors by the Yankees and PDC leaders.

The chapters of the Constitution that are devoted to human rights and democratic freedoms are repetitions of previous ones, with variations in form. However, like the previous ones, they have no value in real life, where genocide, disappearances and torture prevail.

The Constitution was drafted by an insignificant minority of the nation, comprised of landowners, bankers, ard wealthy capitalists who serve Yankee imperialism; policemen; torturers; death squad members; and CIA agents. This is the same minority that has brutally oppressed and exploited our people for decades, and is now slaughtering them. There were no representatives of the working class, who make up 90 percent of the nation. It is therefore, a Cosntitution without a future, just as the criminal sell-out dictatorship that we are defeating no longer has a future.

4. The government formed in the wake of 28 March was called a government of national unity, but it was not even able to unite the exploitative, oppressive, and traitorous minority that is represented within it. It did not result from the elections, but originated from the desk of Reagan, who sent his aide, General Vernon Walters, and the head of the Southern Command to impose the formula, first on the high command, and later, through it, on the parties that were participating in the electoral pantomime.

The military took the opportunity to introduce Alvaro Magana as the buddy [compadre] of the former actor, with the monies of the Banco Hipotecario for 20 years. [sentence as heard]

The government of national unity really meant returning the helm to the oligarchy, which hastened to wipe out even the most timid attempts at reform, with Ronald Reagan's approval and blessing. The official propaganda now presents the 28 March elections as an alleged demonstration that the FMLN does not have the people's support. A year and 9 months have gone by since then. The FMLN has greatly increased its forces, its capability, and its effectiveness. It has extended its territorial control, and it is advancing. Our revolutionary armed forces have advanced from being simple guerrillas to battalions and brigades; from wiping out small enemy patrols to dismantling entire companies and battalions. In fact, in 30 December, we disbanded the 4th Infantry Brigade, annihilating two of its four battalions, and we totally destroyed the installations at its general headquarters. We have moved from occupying small communities in armed propaganda actions to controlling extensive territories encompassing dozens of municipalities, towns, villages, and cities. Hundreds of youths are voluntarily and enthusiastically joining our combat ranks, and we are training new military units, including artillery units, and arming them with the thousands of U.S. weapons that we have seized from the deteriorated enemy army.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces are clearly losing the war. They have been forced to resort drafting people. Large numbers of soldiers desert from the military units every week. Less than 5 percent of those who complete their tour of military duty reenlist, despite salary inducements, and demoralization prevails within the army ranks. Even entire companies turn themselves in as prisoners, as occurred in Anamoros. Afterward, most of them ask to join the FMLN revolutionary forces, where they prove to be excellent fighters. Among the top officers corruption and intrigue exist. They blame each other for the continuous defeats, and there has been one reorganization after another. This is obvious to everyone, and no one denies it. It is even admitted by the Yankee advisers, both in their secret reports and in their statements.

No one is unaware that the Armed Forces of the dictatorship have many more and better weapons than the FMLN; that they receive increasing amounts of weapons, ammunition, and equipment, as well as training, money, and military advice from the U.S. Government; that they have many more enlisted men, NCO's, and officers than we do. Why, then, are they losing the war? There is but one, indisputable explanation: The FMLN is winning the war because it has the people's support, because the people themselves join our fighting forces voluntarily, consciously, and bravely, and give them all kinds of aid, with all their resources, including their lives.

The FMLN is an inseparable part of the Salvadoran people. It is part of their flesh and blood. It reflects their sentiments, their aspirations, their conscience, and their powerful arms.

The puppet Armed Forces, their government, and their Yankee masters are losing the war because the people recognize them as their enemies and executioners. The people repudiate them and have decided to liberate themselves from them no matter what the cost. We will not play the game of the electoral farce of our defeated enemies. We will not lend ourselves to allowing their old machinery of fraud, well known to the Salvadoran people through experience, to once again make a mockery of the people's will. We are certain that we have the people's support, and this is obvious to everyone. We have no need to prove it on paper. No voting at the polls can be more eloquent or convincing than the facts of the war. The will to win even at the cost of one's life is a demonstration a thousand times clearer and more conscientious than the vote, and this will was forged by the Salvadoran people after they realized that their vote is worthless under the domination of the brutal dictatorship that is the puppet of Yankee imperialism. The heroic will of the Salvadoran people is on the side of the FMLN.

What do the dictatorship, its Yankee master, and its troupe of politickers offer as a solution for 1984? They offer the same thing: elections in March. The same bloodied and cast-off personalities will participate in those elections, a collection of all those who represent the past that is dying, a showcase of all that was defeated and has remained as an excrescence that is hated by the people, because Napoleon Duarte, the betrayer of the people, who is now covered with blood and slime, is the candidate of Reagan, to whom he promised that he would request and support an invasion by Yankee troops whenever Reagan so decides. Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, an assassin with whom even Reagan is ashamed to be seen in public, entered politics directly from the torture chambers, from the tunnels of political crime and the assassination of Monsignor Romero, from the mafia leadership of the death squads, when his oligarchic masters had no one else to turn to and were forced to abandon their old hypocritical facade of being decent people who were the country's benefactors.

Francisco Jose Guerrero is a tricky and shopworn politicker who has served and continues to serve several military governments sheltered by the PCN [National Conciliation Party], of such hated fame. He was one of the founders and leaders of FARO [Eastern Region Agricultural Front], which was organized by the most recalcitrant and virulent landowners to prevent the insignificant crumbs of agrarian reform that were to be granted at the time to a few thousand peasants.

Colonel Roberto Escobar Garcia is a politicking military officer who has been serving the dictatorship as a deputy, under secretary, and minister; a permanent member of the organizing team of ORDEN [Nationalist Democratic Organization] and of the electoral frauds since 1967; a member of the advisory groups of Sanchez, Hernandez, Molina, and Romero [former presidents]; and an accomplice in their orders to massacre the people and cause patriots to disappear.

Escobar Garcia is now haggling with the oligarchy and Reagan at the same time over the price of his services and will act on behalf of the highest bidder. In this deal, he will have to compete with Francisco Jose Guerrero. However, none of this will save the dictatorship from defeat. The year 1984 will be the year of victories won for the liberation of the Salvadoran people in both the military and political spheres.

The FMLN sets forth its position:

1. We do not grant any legitimacy to the Constitution drafted by the Constituent Assembly elected in March 1982;

2. We do not grant any legitimacy to the elections that the dictatorship is planning to hold in March 1984 or to the government resulting from them. We will continue strengthening the people's government in zones that are expanding daily in our territory.

3. Organizations that claim to advocate democratic and independent positions in relations to the belligerent forces will, by participating in the electoral process, forfeit their chance to play a positive role in the search for an effective political solution that is just and dignified for our people. What the members and leaders of these organizations should do is to overcome the blackmail, maneuvers, threats, and gifts imposed on us by the Reaganites and their lackeys, in order to keep alive the possibility of contributing in a truly positive way toward realizing peace through channels that eschew violence and of forming part of the structure of the new government to be established in our country.

We reiterate:

1. Our decision to continue raising our weapons against genocide, poverty, injustice, and dependency and for the achievement of revolutionary and democratic change in our country, in defense of national sovereignty in the face of the growing imperialist intervention. Our decision is to continue increasing the struggle and to attain new victories, before and after the elections. This situation cannot change until a process of negotiations is established and progress is made, with specific agreements between the FMLN and the FDR, on one side, and the belligerent counterpart on the other.

2. Our revolutionary decision is to establish a national dialogue to make possible a negotiations process between the belligerent forces, with the purpose of finding a political solution to the war. In the month of January we will submit for our people's information and discussion our final proposal for a political solution.

3. We reiterate our decision to resist with all our political and military power, in the most decisive and widespread manner, any invasion by foreign troops. We are aware of the fact that the experience gained by the FMLN-FDR through sheer heroism and perseverance can bog down any intervention, including an intervention carried out with U.S. troops, and that in the end, no matter how hard and long the campaign, this FMLN action will be crowned with the luminous and irreversible victory of our people. This will pave the way for the opening of a new era in the history of our country, an era of justice, freedom, independence, progress, and peace, which will have deep repercussions in the liberation struggle of the peoples of Central America, of all Latin America, and of the world.

We end 1983 with the extraordinary victory of the "In Unity We Will Defeat the Dictatorship and the Imperialist Aggressor" campaign, which led to the annihilation of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Chalatenango.

In that operation, we inflicted 200 dead and wounded on the dictatorship, took 200 prisoners of war, seized 286 weapons from the puppet Army, and destroyed the important garrison.

With that brilliant victory of our revolutionary arms, we begin a new FMLN military campaign that the General Command has ordered to be carried out under the slogan: "All the People To Oppose the Imperialist Intervention Until Victory."

On the occasion of the beginning of the new year, the FMLN General Command sends greetings to rural and urban workers, to all the Salvadoran people, to its fighters and their leaders, political cadres, and activists inside the country and abroad, members and leaders of the FMLN member organizations, and the leaders and the rank and file of the parties and the other democratic and popular organizations that comprise the FDR. We greet all the leaders and rank and file of the organizations and institutions that remain loyal to the people, the fatherland, and the ideals of justice, democracy, and independence, even if they are not members of the FMLN or FDR. We call on them to use their ability, enthusiasm, intelligence, and willingness to fight to make 1984 the year of peace and the liberation of the Salvadoran people.

United to fight until the final victory! Revolution or death, we will win!

FMLN General Command

[Signed] Commander Leonel Gonzalez, Commander Roberto Roca, Commander Joaquin Villalobos, Commander Shafick Jorge Handal, Commander Ferman Cienfuegos

FMLN LAUDS ANNIVERSARY OF CUBAN REVOLUTION

FMLN General Command Message

PA011815 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The Cuban revolution is the most important event in Latin American history, the FMLN General Command has stated.

The FMLN General Command today sent a message to Companero Commander Fidel Castro, the Communist Party of Cuba, the Cuban revolutionary government, and the Cuban people on the occassion of the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. The message states that Cuban leader Fidel Castro is a model for all Latin American revolutionaries.

We thank you and your people for the example of unyielding firmness, the will to win, and unrenounceable dignity in the face of Yankee imperialism, the most powerful enemy of the people, including the U.S. people.

The Cuban revolution, the most important event in Latin America's history, is victoriously celebrating its 25th anniversary with pride, thanks to its unlimited strength.

Our experience, the FMLN General Command states, confirms the lesson of the Cuban revolution: loyalty to principles and the incorporation of the people into the revolutionary effort for a just cause.

The implementation of internationalism and international solidarity are the keys to the revolution's invincibility and victory, even if the enemy is the biggest in the world and we are the smallest among the small.

The revolutionary and heroic people of El Salvador and their vanguard are commemorating your anniversary by fighting and defeating the Army of the genocidal dictatorship, puppet of the Pentagon and tool of Ronald Reagan's bloody policy.

We congratulate the Cuban people for the great social achievements they have attained during this quarter of a century, the main achievement being the formation of new, educated, revolutionary, and internationalist men and women.

Viva the brotherhood between the Salvadoran and Cuban peoples! Viva Fidel Castro! United to fight until final victory! Revolution or death, we will win!

General Command of the FMLN of El Salvador

[Signed] Commander Shafick Jorge Handal, Commander Leonel Gonzalez, Commander Roberto Roca, Commander Ferman Cienfuegos, Commander Joaquin Villalobos

Farabundo Marti Greeting

PA012330 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Today, 1 January 1984, we greet with great revolutionary joy the 25th anniversary of the glorious and exemplary Cuban revolution. Twenty-five years ago the patriotic troops of the rebel army, along with Cuban people who had declared a general strike throughout the island and who had taken to the streets, were overthrowing the criminal dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. This victory which led to the Cuban socialist revolution makes it the most important event in the history of our Latin American peoples during this century.

In the last 25 years, the Cuban people have achieved great advances in education, medicine, housing, construction, industry, agriculture, science, culture, sports, and many other fields that the Batista dictatorship did not grant to the Cuban workers.

Throughout the last 25 years, the Cuban people, the Cuban Government, and their vanguard, the Communist Party, have gained great international prestige because of their persistent efforts on behalf of peace and peaceful coexistence among states.

The criminal economic, social, political, diplomatic, and military blockade by various U.S. governments has been unable to dim the current Cuban reality, because the light that shines on its own cannot be extinguished by anyone. The implacable example of the Cuban revolution, the example of its admirable patriots' solidarity with other peoples, had one of its highest expressions on 25 October 1983 when the aggressor forces of the Yankee army invaded the small island of Grenada. Hundreds of Cuban construction workers shed their blood to defend the Grenada fatherland, thus unselfishly and exemplarily fulfilling their internationalist commitments.

No one and nothing has been able or will ever be able to crush the exemplary Cuban socialist revolution. Our Salvadoran people and our revolutionary vanguard, the FMLN, joyfully greet this new and great anniversary of the Cuban revolution with crushing and irreversible victories over our enemies.

We greet the Cuban people with the firm commitment to advance to new heights of unity and to advance to new positions until we definitively defeat the criminal and corrupt power of the oligarchs and imperialists. Fatherland or death, we will win! Long live the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution! Long live proletarian internationalism! Proletarians of all countries, unite! United to win until the final victory! Revolution or death, we will win!

FARABUNDO MARTI CITES HONDURAN COMMUNIST COMMUNIQUE

PA301839 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The year 1983 has seen our Central American homeland immersed in a war that is being promoted, financed, and perpetuated by Yankee imperialism, which plans to pursue its strategic interests in order to maintain its domination of all Latin America. In 1984 greater combat awaits us, demanding the boldness and wisdom of each and every one of the Central American peoples to defend our sovereignty and dignity. In Honduras, a country occupied by the Yankee military boot, the democratic and revolutionary sectors have called for resistance and struggle for peace.

We will read the following excerpt of a communique issued by the Communist Party of Honduras, which was issued to mark the arrival of 1984: The regime has no scruples about turning the homeland into a parade ground for Yankee imperialism and allowing thousands of Somozist counterrevolutionaries to abuse our good will in order to attack the Sandinist revolution. They are conspiring with the oligarchy, the enemy of our people, which is trying to prevent, with the most brutal genocide, the inevitable victory of the Salvadoran revolution. [sentence as heard]

The regime is to blame for selling out our national sovereignty and for crying out to become a Yankee protectorate, much like the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico, or for the humiliating position of an occupied country like South Korea, in exchange for a multimillion-dollar loan package, or for a vague and presumed promise of future prosperity. For all these reasons, our people must not cherish false hopes. The same faces will be seen in the palace. They will be promoting the same interests of a voracious and surrendering oligarchy. The best prospects for the upcoming year lie in the people's own strength. We call on them to turn 1984 into a year of struggle against mass unemployment and the high cost of living; for better living and working conditions; against generalized repression and institutionalized terrorism; for the rescue of democratic guarantees; against the arms race and the installation of military bases on our territory; for the expulsion of all foreign military troops, be they Yankees, Somozists, or any others who, by their mere presence, violate our national dignity; against military intervention in Central America and the fratricidal war against revolutionary Nicaragua into which they are trying to drag us; and for a dignified peace.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA VICTORES MAKES POLICY STATEMENT TO NATION

PA011937 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2001 GMT 31 Dec 83

[By Carlos Rodolfo Mobil]

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores has expressed disagreement with military intervention in Central America, thereby confirming the "new course" of his foreign policy in the region.

In a message broadcast to the country last night on a radio and television network, General Mejia Victores said his government practices the internationalist principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other nations.

He expressed support for "authentic pluralism" in Central America and appealed for constant communication and mutual respect among the governments of the area.

After a meeting held in Argentina between Mejia Victores and Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, Guatemala's foreign policy toward Central America has changed, according to observers.

Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade said upon his return from Argentina that Guatemala had been pressured into taking a more active role in Central America, and "we have simply refused."

Mejia Victores himself said that Ortega expressed satisfaction with Guatemala's decision to take a neutral stand with regard to the region's problems.

The government said it did not discuss the subject of the guerrillas with Ortega because "we have not had any problems recently." However, this statement contrasts markedly with that made on 9 August, 1 day after he assumed power. On that occasion, Mejia Victores said that Nicaragua was a threat not only to Guatemala, but to the entire continent, and that the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama) had no business in Central America.

Mejia Victores said in his year-end message that an election law will be issued in January 1984 to initiate the process of return to a constitutional system, culminating in the election of a new president in 1985.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL 'ADAMANT' ON PROCEDURES

PA301303 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has remained adamant in its decision to have the people of the departments nominate the candidates to the constituent assembly instead of having the political parties impose the candidates on them.

In the opinion of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the people have the right of self-determination, and therefore there is no reason for a group of leaders to try to seize this right without consulting the people of the departments.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY SOLIDARITY' ATTACKS EMBASSY

PA032250 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Video not available]

[Excerpt] Terrorist groups from different factions attacked military and diplomatic targets in Guatemala near the end of 1983.

On 30 December, leftist guerrillas ambushed a military patrol in San Mateo Ixtatan, Huehuetenango Department, killing 10 soldiers and 2 civilian patrol members. According to the Army, the attack took place when the subversives tried to set fire to the village of Salchen in that municipality. When soldiers and patrol members arrived, they were ambushed with Claymore mines. The Guatemalan Army reported that the attackers fled toward Mexican territory.

Less than 24 hours later, another terrorist group, using explosives and automatic weapons, attacked the Mexican Embassy, located in Zone 14 of this capital. No one was in the building at the time of the attack. The so-called Counterrevolutionary Solidarity group claimed responsibility for the attack on the Mexican Embassy in a communique which asserted that the organization is not part of any political or military organization. It also asserted that the organization has no specific ideology. The group, which recently claimed responsibility for the attack on the Nicaraguan Embassy on 24 December 1983, gave the following reasons for the attack on the Mexican Embassy:

1. The Nicaraguan ambassador did not heed the group's warning to leave Guatemalan territory.

2. The conduct observed by the Mexican Government: According to the clandestine group, the government is a duplicitous communist satellite that supports, trains, outfits, finances, and gives refuge to the leftist guerrilla groups which operate in western Guatemala.

3. Mexico's oil sales to Nicaragua: According to the group, they are used to mobilize the armed repression that is being suffered by our dear Nicaraguan people.

4. The clandestine organization Counterrevolutionary Solidarity also included as a reason the Mexican Government's refusal to authorize the extradition requested by the Guatemalan Government in the case of former Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz. The organization described him as a thief and a killer.

In conclusion, the organization Counterrevolutionary Solidarity asserted that a series of attacks will follow until the Nicaraguan ambassador to Guatemala leaves Guatemalan territory.

HAVANA REPORTS POLICE ARREST 50 IN CAPITAL

PA311545 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] News reports from Guatemala City indicate that 50 people were arrested during a lightning operation by the regime's police early Wednesday morning in the (Delmond) and Maya neighborhoods. According to the report, the police raided homes, carried out searches, and terrorized thousands of people.

ORPA MEMBER DISCUSSES MOVEMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION

PA032045 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Interview with (Silvia Gutierrez), member of the Guatemalan Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, by Pedro Martinez Pirez; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Martinez Pirez] I would like to hear your opinion about the current political situation in Guatemala.

We have seen that the crisis affecting the ruling dictatorships in that country has intensified in recent months. How would you describe the current situation in Guatemala?

[Gutierrez] Guatemala is experiencing an internal crisis, both within the Army and among the ruling classes. They have (?sought) to implement counterinsurgency plans, but the time for implementation of these plans has been reduced because there is an entire revolutionary movement confronting them and preventing them from being truly fulfilled.

[Martinez Pirez] We have seen recently that activities have been intensified, specifically in the capital.

[Gutierrez] Yes, 12 operations were carried out in December. Military convoys were ambushed in areas which the Army thought it had under its control. The military activities carried out in the city also surprised the Army, which was unable to respond.

[Martinez Pirez] Can it be said that Mejia Victores' regime is even more subservient to the United States than that of Rios Montt?

[Gutierrez] It definitely is. One of the fundamental goals of the coup was to enable the Guatemalan Government, the Army in particular, to participate in activities coordinated at the Central American level. This is why the reactivation of CONDECA [Central American Defense Council] was proposed. However, this has been impossible because there is (?rigorous) activity throughout the national territory that keeps the Guatemalan Army from supporting either the Honduran or Salvadoran Governments.

[Martinez Pirez] Has unity among the revolutionary forces advanced?

[Gutierrez] The process of unity is advancing. This year we have carried out joint political-military activities, which mark a qualitative jump between the unitarian process and the expansion of this process, which is advancing.

BACKGROUND TO LEFTIST SIAG BULLETIN GIVEN

PA292155 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Several news media sources have received issues Nos 5 and 6 of a publication called Servicio de Informacion y Analisis de Guatemala [SIAG]. The issues are dated 27 October and 15 November 1983, and are clearly identified with the leftist line of the rebel armed groups opposing the military government.

The ideas, information, and commentaries published in the bulletins directly reflect the Marxist-Leninist viewpoints of the FAR [Rebel Armed Forces], the FP [31 January People's Front], ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms], and the PGT [Guatemalan Labor Party]. These organizations comprise the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG.

In its issue No 6 of 15 November, the SIAG bulletin, which covers the economic, political, and social problems of Guatemala and Central America on a bimonthly basis, says its reports are backed by a vast network of sources.

The information that is gathered is sorted and summarized objectively and impartially to help its readers analyze the news, because they make the final judgments and form opinions regarding the topics discussed.

The SIAG bulletin states that it is the result of the efforts of Guatemalan newsmen who are members of the Associacion of Democratic Newsmen of Guatemala, APDG, which bears the name of Marco Antonio Cacao Munoz, a newsman killed during General Lucas' administration. Apparently, the news service is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT REITERATES MARCH 1982 PEACE PROPOSAL

PA010500 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 22

[Press communique]

[Text] In view of the misleading statement by Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan regime, that Honduras has not submitted a peace proposal for Central America, the Honduran Government feels compelled to publish excerpts from the peace proposal submitted to the OAS on 23 March 1982, to which Managua never replied.

Here are excerpts from the six points of the Honduran proposal:

1. Immediately establishing the basis for general disarmament in the region by proposing an end to the arms race and securing a true reduction of arms and military forces to levels compatible with the countries' real needs.

2. To agree on an effective reduction of foreign advisers, both military and others and other elements that could create confusion and unrest, or denationalize a country's own identity.

3. To study and to agree on adequate mechanisms for international supervision and vigilance over commitments made area governments on this subject. Honduras agrees to open its territory to any type of multinational supervision that can be agreed to, with no restrictions, in order to find and to strengthen peace.

4. To discuss and to agree on the procedures and mechanisms most appropriate to stop arms race in the region.

5. To maintain absolute respect for established, demarcated and traditional borders under the jurisdiction of each state of the area in order to prevent new disputes that might alter peace.

6. To establish a permanent and multilateral dialogue to promote political understanding leading to strengthened democracy and pluralism, by assuring respect for public freedom and the people's right to express their will freely.

The principles set forth in the Contadora Group debates contain the essence of our proposals, and there is a definite similarity between the Honduran proposal and the Contadora Group's principles.

By contrast, Nicaragua has rejected all serious invitations to make effective peace efforts, and now -- with a new propaganda campaign -- is trying to confuse international public opinion. It will not accomplish this, because every day it becomes clearer who is in favor of democracy and peace, and who is in favor of violence and totalitarianism.

FOREIGN SECRETARY PROPOSES PRISONER EXCHANGE

PA040332 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Honduras has proposed that Nicaragua exchange Honduran prisoners in Nicaragua for Nicaraguans who are in Honduran prisons. The Sandinist authorities, however, have not answered Honduras' request, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has reported.

On 16 December, Paz Barnica delivered a letter to Nicaraguan Ambassador Edwin Zablah, who said that the request would probably be answered before the end of the year.

Paz Barnica indicated that Honduras will continue its efforts to have these Hondurans return to the country. The foreign secretary pointed out that about 60 Hondurans are being held in Nicaragua, but he did not specify the number of Nicaraguans who are being held in Honduras.

PAZ BARNICA ON SECRETARIAT'S 1983 PERFORMANCE

PA031830 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Statement by Honduran Foreign Secretary Doctor Edgardo Paz Barnica; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] In 1983 we tried to project with all good will the democratic formation and functioning of President Suazo Cordova's administration, as well as his desire for peace in Central America. This has been in the political arena. We have actively participated in the Contadora Group's efforts, which Honduras has intensely promoted. Honduras' peace proposals have been included in the fundamental documents of the Contadora Group, in the agenda approved in May this year [as heard], in the Document of Objectives approved in September, and in the document of Bases for Peace in Central America, which was formulated in July by the Governments of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Honduras' peace proposals are there because they have been very specific and effective in the search for global and regional peace in a multilateral forum.

The Honduran Government reiterates its support for the Contadora Group, and it is in this spirit that we will participate at the next meeting, which is to open in Panama on 7 January. The purpose is to achieve peace in line with principles that will allow it to be a real peace -- security, democracy, and cooperation in economic and social development. Democracy is fundamental, as is security, because the terms of regional security have been disrupted by Nicaragua's excessive arms buildup. Economic and social development are also of great importance in achieving peace, but peace as I explained it in an interview that I granted to the newspaper LA PRENSA, which was published a few days ago. Working for peace, fighting for peace, do not exactly mean suicidal immobilization, but rather a constant effort to cover the various subjects that entail the defense of Honduras' interests.

In 1984 we will continue working in this same spirit, fundamentally to project the true and effective image of this government which has cost the Honduran people so many sacrifices and struggles and which is presided over by our country's only authentic national leader: Doctor Roberto Suazo Cordova.

We trust that this may be the year of peace, of a fitting peace for Central America, achieved by the Central Americans themselves, with the solidarity of Latin America's democratic governments.

On another subject, in 1983, the Foreign Secretariat obtained approximately 205 million lempiras in aid, a substantial sum through the Foreign Secretariat alone. This sum was obtained in the form of loans, donations, and technical and food aid from various countries. More precisely, the total was 203 million lempiras. The Foreign Secretariat's budget totals only 11 or 12 million lempiras per year. If you check these figures, you will conclude that this budget equals about 5 percent of the aid that the foreign secretariat obtained in 1983. If we continue in this post in 1984, we will continue to work zealously.

SUAZO CORDOVA DISCUSSES 1985 ELECTIONS

PA310415 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- President Doctor Roberto Suazo Cordova said yesterday that the 1985 elections will be "clean and honest," as he denied plans for reelection. He was talking to members of the National Civil Registry and National Elections Tribunal before the ceremony at the Presidential House in which they handed him his identification card.

President Suazo Cordova told them: "I ask you to supervise the elections." Suazo Cordova said that the political parties can appoint their own representatives to visit all the municipalities "and verify and confirm the purity of the electoral process."

He added that the citizens' registration program which the National Civil Registry will begin on Monday "must be the purest ever held in Honduras."

"No matter who a public official is, if he tries to interrupt the electoral process, it is your duty and obligation to let me know so that I can apply the proper sanctions," President Suazo Cordova said.

Dr Suazo Cordova said, "We must do away with the errors of the past, in which high officials, beginning with the president, exerted their influence on the electoral process."

The Presidential elections scheduled for November 1985 "will probably bring me my highest honor, and it will be the greatest and most unexpected privilege of my life to hold them," Suazo Cordova said.

"The registration process, Suazo Cordova added, "will serve as an internal security measure, because many subversives have several birth certificates issued in different parts of the country."

"Any member of the National Civil Registry trying to sabotage the citizens' registration process, whether from the National Party, Liberal Party, Christian Democratic Party, or Innovation and Unity Party, should be dismissed from his job," President Suazo Cordova indicated.

Dr Suazo Cordova said that national problems should be solved by votes and not by bullets, "especially in Central America, which is facing a situation of great conflict."

Suazo Cordova said that his government has the support of the people and of the Armed Forces "to maintain peace and tranquillity in this country."

"The communists," Suazo Cordova added, "do not believe in elections; they only believe in processes they call revolutionary."

NICARAGUA

D'ESCOTO VIEWS 1983 FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

PA031711 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said yesterday upon assessing the achievements of the revolution's foreign policy in 1983 that Nicaragua began this year as head of the highest UN body, which is charged chiefly with guaranteeing international peace and security.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister underscored the government's efforts to avoid war in Central America and praised the role the United Nations has assumed in the search for a political solution to the area's problems. He mentioned the resolute support that Nicaragua has received from the Nonaligned Movement and the peace efforts within the Contadora framework through which, he stressed, progress has continued to be made despite the U.S. attempts to impose its will through force.

D'Escoto described the fact that Nicaragua occupies the chairmanship of the UN Security Council effective 1 January 1984 as a very significant development in the preservation of peace in Central America and the world.

We began this year with the chairmanship of the UN Security Council, the foreign minister said, after recalling that during 1983, and as a member of that organization, Nicaragua demonstrated its desire for peace, which we feel can only be achieved with the support of the international community, in line with the UN Charter.

Father D'Escoto said that in the year that just ended, the Nicaraguan Government made significant progress in the work of cementing bilateral and multilateral relations with various nations in the world, including several Latin American countries, in order to offset the U.S. slander campaign against the revolution and to further promote active solidarity.

MIDINRA OFFICIALS COMMENT ON U.S. MEAT IMPORT BAN

PA301815 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision to stop importing Nicaraguan meat, citing health standards as a reason, will not have a serious effect on Nicaragua's meat exports, MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform] officials have stated.

The decision to suspend Nicaragua's meat export permit will affect Nicaragua for a brief period of time, considering that the required standards will be met by the end of January.

It was reported that the measure announced in Washington 2 days ago, by which meat purchases from Nicaragua and seven other Latin American and European countries will be halted, does not mean that current health standards have not been met. It stems from new health requirements established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for all meat entering the United States.

Nicaragua exports 33 million pounds of beef to the United States [no time frame given].

DANIEL ORTEGA SENDS ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE TO PLO

PA012130 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2032 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Managua, 1 Jan (DPA) -- The Nicaraguan Sandinist Government has reiterated its support for the struggle being waged by the PLO for the "withdrawal of the invader from your homeland."

Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, expressed "deep concern over Israel's aggressive and warmongering policy in Lebanon and occupied Palestinian territories," in a message to PLO President Yasir 'Arafat on the 19th anniversary of the PLO.

Ortega said that Nicaragua is also experiencing difficult moments, facing the threat of a military intervention, and that "the Nicaraguan people, who love peace, cannot but strongly condemn the Israelis' criminal acts."

The message concludes by stating that Nicaragua "shares the despair of the brother Palestinian people and does not doubt that their unwavering struggle will continue until the invader withdraws from Palestinian territories."

PLI OUTLINES VIEWS, POSITION ON COMING ELECTIONS

PA302211 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[New Year Declaration by the Independent Liberal Party; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] The tradition of capitulating of previous governments created distrust and lack of confidence in electoral processes. However, this right is embodied in our Fundamental Statute, and we can see that it is one of the most cherished aspirations of our people.

Governments result from free, impartial, secret, general, and direct consultation. Only in this way can they obtain legitimacy and respect from the international community.

The PLI [Independent Liberal Party] has always upheld the defense, promotion, and protection of human rights. The PLI wishes to emphasize two of these rights because we feel that, in light of current problems, all Nicaraguan political forces must have a clear and unequivocal position regarding them. These two rights are the right to dissent and the right to choose our rulers.

We feel that the ideals of the revolution, which are based on political pluralism, a mixed economy, and nonalignment, develop naturally through the institutionalization of various ideological currents converging toward a common destiny, which is the well-being and happiness of the honest Nicaraguan people, without political, religious, or ideological discrimination.

This logical avenue of expression for pluralism originates in the multisectorial nature of our economy and the sacred right to suffrage, which is brought to life through free and conscientious voting at the polls.

The PLI has welcomed the democratic opening that was announced, which will allow all active political parties to freely engage in political activities during the electoral frays to be held in 1984, all of which is aimed at permitting the parties to express themselves politically and to struggle to gain political power in accordance with the provisions of the recently enacted political law. For this reason, it is necessary to implement adequate mechanisms, such as a law on elections and a law on social communications media, to define the democratic character of the upcoming electoral campaign.

HAVANA REPORTS ON MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIONS

Foreign Ministry Cited on Attacks

PA032235 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has charged that on Sunday, 1 January, two speedboats attacked a Nicaraguan fishing vessel and killed its captain, Noel Briceno. The Foreign Ministry held the U.S. Government responsible for this criminal act.

A press communique released in Managua today stated that two Nicaraguan coast guard vessels chasing the attackers detected a vessel of considerable size toward which the speedboats steered. The communique added that U.S. warships are likely to be used to carry speedboats to places near their targets. Boats of this type inflicted serious damage on Corinto harbor in October 1983.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry stressed that U.S. warships have been seen continually near Puerto Sandino and in other areas, and held President Ronald Reagan's government responsible for those attacks, which were part of the undeclared U.S. war against the Nicaraguan people.

Casualty Reports Noted

FL031356 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has reported that about 40 counterrevolutionaries were killed during the most recent confrontations in the Department of Nueva Segovia.

The same source added that at least five clashes occurred in the vicinities of San Fernando and Santa Clara, places along the highway between Ocotal and Jalapa, which the infiltrators tried to take.

According to the information, in the last 2 weeks, the former Somozist guard troops, who came from Honduras, have suffered a total of 133 casualties as they tried to occupy part of northern Nicaragua, with no success.

The report added that during the course of the confrontations, weapons of different calibers were captured, along with large quantities of equipment and ammunition, which were abandoned in many cases by the attackers as they fled.

It was also announced in Managua that the Sandinist People's Army inflicted another 120 casualties on the so-called task forces which penetrated through the Department of Jinotega during the first days of this year.

The official communique issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction states that during the actions, several counterrevolutionary launches attacked Nicaraguan vessels near Puerto Sandino and installations of the port itself.

Cited on Miskitos' Return

PA311548 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The Committee for the Repatriation of the Miskito Indians, which comprises representatives of the Sandinist government and of several international humanitarian organizations, has announced in Managua that both the Honduran Government and the counterrevolutionary groups that operate in that country are hindering the Miskitos' return to Nicaragua.

According to a committee spokesman, the Honduran authorities have been reluctant to cooperate in repatriating the Miskitos. He added that the Nicaraguan Democratic Force is exerting heavy pressures to prevent the Indians' return to their country.

ARDE GENERAL COMMAND OUTLINES MILITARY ACTIONS

Heavy Enemy Casualties Reported

PA301307 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 30 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 138 issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command, in the "Nicaraguan mountains," on 29 December]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command informs the people of Nicaragua and the free peoples of the world of the following war actions against the interventionists:

1. At 0900 on 25 December 1983, in the area known as (Cayo Papaste), a Ramon Raudales Battalion squad led by Compañero Jumbo was ambushed by several soldiers of the interventionist army. The ARDE companeros repelled the attack, which lasted 15 minutes. They inflicted five casualties on the enemy. We regret the death of companero [name indistinct], alias Aparecido, who died heroically while covering our companeros' retreat.

2. On 27 December 1983 the Colmillo II squad of the Ramon Raudales column, led by Companero Navegante, ambushed a Sandinist People's Army, EPS, patrol in the area known as San Ramon, Nueva Guinea jurisdiction. Our companeros inflicted seven dead and eight wounded on the enemy during a military operation that lasted 30 minutes. We report that two of our companeros were wounded and are now recuperating in the mountains of southern Nicaragua.

On that same day, 27 December 1983, at 0935, the Jaguar II squad of the Ramon Raudales column, led by Companero Matibus, ambushed an EPS patrol in the area known as (Boca de Bartolo), an area that ARDE forces patrol, and inflicted 35 dead and numerous wounded on the enemy. The fighting lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes.

In that same area patrolled by ARDE forces, the Jaguar I squad of the Ramon Raudales column, led by Companero Israel, attacked an EPS battalion with rifle and artillery fire. The fighting lasted 6 hours, and the enemy suffered 102 casualties: We report five dead and several wounded.

3. On 28 December 1983 the Colmillo I squad of the Ramon Raudales column ambushed the EPS 90-15 Battalion. The ambush took place in the area known as San Luis, Nueva Guinea jurisdiction. The enemy suffered 89 casualties during the 30-minute skirmish.

On that same day, 28 December 1983, at 0800, a skirmish with the interventionist army [words indistinct] of the Ramon Raudales column led by Companeros Jeronimo and Israel. The fighting took place in [words indistinct] and lasted 9 hours. Many casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and a Soviet-made battery and [word indistinct] were recovered. During this skirmish, several of our companeros were wounded. They are now recuperating in the mountains of Nicaragua. The morale of our fighters is high; they are willing to fight to the end to achieve the liberation of our beloved homeland.

Without totalitarianism, or a return to the past!

Punta Gorda Ambush

PA031956 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 3 Jan 84

[War Bulletin No 140 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, in "the Nicaraguan mountains," on 2 January]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces reports to the Nicaraguan people and the democratic peoples of the world:

At 0500 on 30 December 1983, the Gaspar Garcia Laviana column, of the TPOQ [not further identified] zone, ambushed a squad of the Managua regime's occupation army at (La Comarquita), Punta Gorda jurisdiction.

The clash lasted 15 minutes, and the enemy sustained four dead and three wounded, including the scouts [baquianos].

The strategy of staging ambushes has given us superiority over our enemies, and has allowed us to inflict ten times more casualties on them than we have suffered. This confrims that 1 of our fighters is worth 10 fighters of the pro-Soviet EPS [Sandinist People's Army], because our patriotism is based on the ideals of General Augusto Cesar Sandino.

Death to the Cubans and the foreign invaders! Without totalitarianism, or a return to the past!

Further Ambush Reported

PA032010 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 3 Jan 84

[War Bulletin No 141 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, in "the Nicaraguan mountains," on 2 January]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces reports to the Nicaraguan people and the democratic peoples of the world:

At 1500 on 30 December, the Colmillo 6 squad, commanded by Companero Juguete, which is part of the General Francisco Estrada column, ambushed an army patrol of Managua's totalitarian regime at (Boca de Piedra), Punta Gorda jurisdiction. The enemy suffered four casualties in this quick action. Our forces, defenders of Nicaraguan sovereignty, are holding their positions on Nicaraguan soil despite the offensive launched by the pro-Soviet EPS [Sandinist People's Army].

Death to the Cubans and the foreign interventionists! Without totalitarianism, or a return to the past!

HUMBERTO ORTEGA FIGURES ON CASUALTIES DISPUTED

PA300410 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Humberto Ortega, the biggest killer among the nine traitors, has announced in BARRICADA, the newspaper of misinformation, slander, and lies, that 1,824 companeros struggling to rescue the Nicaraguan revolution have fallen in 1983. Humberto Ortega's statement deserves only two answers: 1) His statistics are not based on the truth; and 2) they will do anything to hide the truth from their troops in order to prevent further demoralization among the pro-Soviet forces. However, we do keep records. Our records show that during 8 months of fighting in the south, our forces who defend our national sovereignty have inflicted more than 2,000 dead and 1,500 wounded on the enemy forces. These figures do not include the more than 100 prisoners who have been handed over to the International Red Cross, or more than 1,000 honest men who did not wish to continue fighting against the interests of the people and who have joined our armed forces.

The Voice of Sandino wishes to emphasize that these figures only include activities carried out in the south. The forces fighting the totalitarian regime from the north have stated that they have inflicted a great number of casualties on the enemy. They stated that in 1983 they inflicted more than 3,000 dead and 2,000 wounded on the totalitarians.

ARDE NOTES 'CONCERN' WITH FDN RESTRUCTURING

PA300440 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2322 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] San Jose, 29 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The political directorate of the "ARDE" (Democratic Revolutionary Alliance) of Nicaragua today expressed its "concern and alarm" with the reorganization announced by the "FDN" (Nicaraguan Democratic Force), which is fighting the Nicaraguan regime in the northern part of the country.

The leadership of the alliance, which represents the armed forces led by Eden Pastora, the political groups of Alfonso Robelo, Jose Davila, and the Miskitos of Brooklyn Rivera, analyzed, at its last meeting of the year, the situation created by the fighters in the north, and reached the conclusion that they "have taken a step toward harder positions against "ARDE."

Instead of moving toward a national convergence, as ARDE proposes, the "FDN has moved in the opposite direction, eliminating from its leadership three members who had pronounced themselves in favor of an understanding among all the combatants," ARDE spokesman Jose Davila told ACAN-EFE.

Mario Zeledon, Lucia Salazar, and Alfonso Callejas, who favored negotiation with the forces of the southern front, were removed from the FDN directorate.

According to the source, those now responsible for the northern guerrilla organization are Adolfo Calero, Colonel Enrique Bermudez, Indalecio Rodriguez, and Edgardo Chamorro, who in the past have not favored ARDE's proposal.

The ARDE assembly left open the possibility of issuing a pronouncement at a later date if the situation with those of the northern front deteriorates.

'OUR AMERICA' HIGHLIGHTS CASTRO 1 JANUARY SPEECH

PA040220 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 3 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] In 1983 Latin America experienced a much more dramatic economic situation than in 1982. In 1982, the economy in the region as a whole decreased by 1 percent; in 1983 the drop was 3.3 percent. This figure is truly grave when we add inflation, unemployment, currency devaluation, the decrease in the prices of the main raw materials, and the growing rise in the prices of the industrial import articles. The peoples of our America begin the new year with these prospects.

However, what are Cuba's economic prospects and their effects on the improvmeent of social conditions and other areas of development? In 1983 the Latin American economy decreased by 3.3 percent; Cuba's economy grew by 5 percent, and a similar growth is planned for 1984.

During the solemn event held on 1 January in the Cespedes Park in Santiago de Cuba to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, recounted at length all the essential tasks carried out in this period. They include the confiscation of property embezzled by corrupt rulers; recovery of national sovereignty and dignity; reduction in public utility rates, rents, and medicines; radical agrarian reform -- the deepest and most radical ever carried out in Latin America, affecting landed estates owned by nationals and North Americans; and nationalization of all U.S. enterprises, sugar mills, telephone and power companies, railroads, ports, mines, commercial chains, banks, and foreign commerce.

Further, Fidel Castro said that the revolution did not tremble or hesitate in the face of the huge task of eradicating unemployment, illiteracy, ignorance, and the public health situation by creating child care centers, primary, secondary, and pre-university schools, special education centers for exceptional children, rural, pediatric, maternal-children, and clinical-surgical hospitals and polyclinics, specialized research and treatment centers, and many cultural and sports installations for the mental and physical development of our youth and people.

Fidel Castro said in Santiago de Cuba that thousands of industrial, agricultural, and social objectives have been built throughout these 25 years of revolutionary power. As a result, the panorama of our rural areas and cities has radically changed. Work has been humanized in all essential fields of production with the use of technology and machines. Many important projects are being built or are in the implementation phase in the energy field, including the first nuclear power plant, a new petroleum refinery, great industries for nickel processing, important textile and spinning mills, the country's geological prospecting, the search and extraction of petroleum, large steel foundries, and large plants for the basic, light, and food industries.

The leader of the Cuban revolution said that new sugar mills are being built with 100 percent of the plans and more than 60 percent of the component parts being produced in Cuba. Fidel Castro said that one proof of how much productivity has increased is the fact that only 12 years ago, 350,000 cane cutters were employed in the sugar harvest and today, to produce much more sugar, less than 100,000 are employed. The same thing has occurred in other fields of agriculture, industry, construction, and transport. At the same time, the number and quality of the jobs has increased in the various areas of production and services. He stressed: What other Latin American country can say the same?

STATE COUNCIL AUTHORIZES DECORATIONS OF GENERALS

Resolution No 250

FL031739 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1315 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Resolution No 250 issued by the Cuban Council of State on 1 January 1984, read by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers the former municipal town hall in Santiago, Cuba; no date given -- recorded]

[Text] The Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, by the powers vested in it, and at the request of its president, has approved the following Resolution No 250:

1. To grant the honorary title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba and the Order of Maximo Gomez to Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra in recognition of his extraordinary merits in the insurrectional struggle against the tyranny and the imperialist neocolonial domination, the struggle for the consolidation and defense of the socialist state, and the accomplishment of heroic internationalist missions.

Born in a proletarian home, Comrade Abelardo Colome Ibarra devoted himself to the cause of national liberation and socialism since early in his youth. He was one of the founders of the 26 July Revolutionary Movement in Santiago, Cuba, under whose banners he took up arms for the first time in the struggle for freedom in the 30 November 1956 uprising. Immediately following this, he went underground until March 1957 when he became a member of the first armed detachment sent by Frank Pais to join the Granma expeditionaries who created the Sierra Maestra Front, which shaped the Revolutionary Army and was its bastion.

Together with other forerunners, he participated in the Uvero combat and in other actions until March 1958 when he crossed Sierra del Cristal as one of the rebel commanders who were tasked with founding the Frank Pais Second Oriental Front where he became commander of the rebel army in 1958.

Throughout the past 25 years, Div Gen Abelardo Colome Ibarra has decisively contributed to the organization and continuous strengthening of the Revolutionary Armed Forces with an exceptional performance in the direction, preparation, and improvement of the capacity and fighting disposition of its large units.

With exemplary devotion, tenacity, and firmness, Abelardo Colome Ibarra has duly carried out several internationlist missions assigned to him. He was particularly outstanding in the brilliant leadership of groups of Cuban internationalist troops that responded to the call of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] and the People's Republic of Angola to help the Angolan Armed Forces and people repel, defeat, and expel the South African racist troops that were trying to crush the young Angolan republic.

Therefore, the life of Colome Ibarra is a living example of the qualities and merits with which men, of the most humble upbringing, have become leaders with a true fiber of modesty and now enjoy the admiration, respect, and affection of the masses.

Because of all this, the Council of State considers that to grant the honorary title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba and the Order of Maximo Gomez to Comrade Colome Ibarra on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution constitutes a well-deserved recognition of his merits and an incentive to all fighters, cadres, revolutionary militants, and our people who see in their most self-denying and courageous sons a synthesis of their own virtues: honesty, unselfishness, spirit of sacrifice, purity, the desire to excel, and heroism.

2. To take the necessary steps to present Colome Ibarra with the Gold Star, which represents the title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba, and with the insignia, which represents the Order of Maximo Gomez, at a solemn ceremony.

Issued at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana on 1 January 1984. [applause]

Resolution No 251

FLO31743 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1315 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Resolution No 251 issued by the Cuban Council of State on 1 January 1984, read by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers at the former municipal town hall in Santiago de Cuba; no date given -- recorded]

[Text] The Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, by the powers vested in it, and at the request of its president, has approved the following Resolution No 251:

1. To grant the honorary title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba and the Order of Maximo Gomez to Division General Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez in recognition of his extraordinary merits in the insurrectional struggle against the tyranny and the imperialist neocolonial domination, the struggle for the consolidation and defense of the socialist state, and the accomplishment of heroic internationalist missions.

Of humble peasant origin, Comrade Ochoa Sanchez, as a teenager rebelled against the tyranny in the Cauto plains early in 1958. Later, he joined the Sierra Maestra's first front where he participated in several combats.

Because of his great qualities as a guerrilla, Ochoa Sanchez was chosen to form part of the Antonio Maceo Column headed by Camilo Cienfuegos. He participated in the heroic invasion as far as the country's central region. The liberation struggle ended while he was in that region at a time when he was a captain in the rebel army.

Loyal to his insurrectional struggle on behalf of our people's most legitimate interests -- their liberation, sovereignty, and independence -- Comrade Ochoa Sanchez has been involved in a hard, growing, and praiseworthy effort to organize and strengthen the Revolutionary Armed Forces where he was held various positions. In adverse and difficult conditions, Comrade Ochoa Sanchez has carried out several internationalist missions with a particular spirit of sacrifice. He has thus shown his ideological firmness, courage, and talent at the service of the cause of national liberation and socialism.

These missions inlcude his brilliant performance as commander of the Cuban troops in Ethiopia which backed the resistance and the heroic battle of the Ethiopian Armed Forces and masses against foreign intervention.

Therefore, the life of Ochoa Sanchez is a living example of the qualities and merits with which men, of the most humble upbringing, have become leaders with a true fiber of medesty and now enjoy the admiration, respect, and affection of the masses.

Because of all this, the Council of State considers that to grant the honorary title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba and the Order of Maximo Gomez to Comrade Ochoa Sanchez on occasion of the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution constitutes a well-deserved recognition of his merits and an incentive to all fighters, cadres, revolutionary militants, and our people who see in their most self-denying and courageous sons a synthesis of their own virtues: honesty, unselfishness, spirit of sacrifice, purity, the desire to excel, and heroism,

2. To take the necessary steps to present Ochoa Sanchez with the Gold Star, which represents the title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba, and with the insignia, which represents the Order of Maximo Gomez, at a solemn ceremony.

Issued at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana on 1 January 1984. [applause]

USSR CONGRATULATES CASTRO ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY

FL040202 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2233 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] On the occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the Council of Ministers of the USSR have sent a message to Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, which initially states that the triumph of the revolution on 1 January 1959 was the fruit of a struggle for liberation that lasted for many years; this struggle was carried out by the Cuban people, who refused to continue to endure poverty, backwardness, and inhumane exploitation by large estate owners, capitalists, and imperialist monopolies.

The message also states that, in this quarter century, under the leadership of its Communist Party, the Cuban people have had successes in building a new society, in economic and cultural development, and in the strengthening of the independence and international positions of the nation.

The message also states that, based on the principle of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, the fraternal Soviet-Cuban relations grow and become more consolidated from one year to the next. The message also reiterates the unchanging solidarity of the Soviet people with the fraternal Cuban people.

The message concludes: While celebrating this glorious date with you, we wish you, dear Comrade Fidel Castro, and the entire Cuban people continuing success in the defense and augmentation of the achievements of the Cuban revolution.

Signed: Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR; Presidium of the Supreme Soviet; Council of Ministers of the USSR.

CASTRO, PCF'S MARCHAIS ISSUE DECLARATION

PA040325 Paris AFP in Spanish 0229 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Havana, 3 Dec (AFP) -- Cuban President Fidel Castro and Georges Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party [PCF], believe that the situation in Central America is characterized by "the development of the liberation movement of the peoples" and by "the U.S.' determination to oppose through any means, including armed intervention, any emancipation movement."

In a seven-page joint declaration published last night in Havana, 24 hours [times as received] before the French communist leader returned to his country, Marchais and Castro affirmed that "Reagan's desire to maintain his control over such a sensitive region heightens tension and intensifies conflicts." The example of the invasion of Grenada demonstrates, according to Castro and Marchais, "the essence of the policy of force that the United States seeks to impose in the region."

Nonetheless, according to the communist leaders, "despite the broad deployment of military and economic resources and the diverse political maneuvers undertaken, the U.S. Government has not achieved its objective in Central America." "The Nicaraguan revolution has been consolidated," they note, and in El Salvador "the dictatorship that is maintained thanks only to U.S. massive support, is facing the push of the FDR-FMLN patriots who have the military and political initiative."

Marchais and Castro "appeal to all the peace-loving and progressive forces of the world" to support Nicaragua. "Now is the time of active vigilance... in the face of the threats that hover over it," the statement reads.

Recalling "the crimes and genocide" caused by "the imperialist negativism against the national and social liberation," the two parties "denounce the large Western information media's selective view of the defense of human rights."

Finally, Castro and Marchais state "that in installing new nuclear weapons in Western Europe, the United States has taken the grave responsibility of a new escalation in the arms buildup that threatens the peace and security of all the peoples of the world." Both parties "come out for an immediate end to this escalation, for a negotiated and balanced reduction of all arms, and respect for the security of each country."

Marchais returned to his country today after a 10-day visit at the invitation of Cuban President Castro. Although the Western press was not informed of his activities, it was learned that the French communist leader spent most of his stay at Varadero Beach, 120 km east of Havana. He was accompanied by Maxime Gremetz, secretary of the PCF Central Committee, and their wives.

Marchais Departs

FL031926 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Following a visit of several days in our country in response to a personal invitation from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Georges Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party, and the delegation accompanying him have left for their country.

Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo, saw Marchais off at the airport. Prior to his departure, the communist leader made a brief statement:

[Begin Marchais recording -- in French with simultaneous Spanish translation] We feel that U.S. imperialism is undoubtedly demonstrating its aggressiveness. Such is the case of Central America whose most significant examples are Grenada, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. However, it is also the case in the Middle East and in southern Africa. This aggressiveness is also shown in the U.S. decision to deploy the missiles in Europe. Consequently, we are facing a serious situation.

We feel that forces making this policy fail exist, but they must fight in unity.

I believe that we are very much in agreement with our Cuban friends as to the fact that all anti-imperialist forces must make a considerable effort to unite in the struggle to make this aggressive U.S. policy fail. [end recording]

COMMENTARY ON NICARAGUAN PEACE EFFORTS

PA031918 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 2 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] A few days after its first anniversary, the Contadora Group has been hailed as a vitally important instrument in the search for peaceful and negotiated solutions to Central America's political crisis.

In response to the group's peace efforts, in 1983 Nicaragua presented several proposals that demonstrate its willingness to negotiate, despite the fact that it continues to be the object of attacks promoted and financed by the United States. The Managua government was the only Central American government to answer the call by the presidents of the four nations that make up the Contadora Group to find a peaceful solution to regional differences by presenting a concrete six-point proposal. It also issued another document containing four proposed agreements, to which it added three new proposals on military matters, foreign policy, and Central American socioeconomic development. Finally, on 4 December, it added to the amnesty granted to Miskito Indians the authorization for all exiles who had left Nicaragua following the fall of dictator Anastacio Somoza on 19 July 1979 to return. A few days prior to the Contadora Group's first anniversary, the Nicaraguan Government decreed the beginning of the electoral process and set 21 February 1984 as the date on which the electoral schedule will be announced.

When the foreign ministers of Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama met for the first time on 9 January 1983 on the Panamanian island of Contadora, the shadow of a general conflict loomed over them, and they possessed little or no resources to ward it off. The specter of war has haunted Central America all year. The U.S. Government recently added another $24 million to the already inflated amount it has allocated for the war against the Sandinist revolution. The multifaceted support Washington gives the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary bands became increasingly conspicuous when Richard Stone, the U.S. special envoy to Central America, met with counterrevolutionary leaders early in December and urged them to unite as a prerequisite for receiving further U.S. financing.

In a preparatory step to the Big Pine II Honduran-U.S. military maneuvers that have been taking place on Central America's Atlantic and Pacific coasts since August, Washington deployed a war fleet to the area to display its military might. The warships arrived in Central America less than 48 hours before the opening of the meeting at the Mexican resort of Cancun on 17 July, at which the presidents of the Contadora Group countries called for peaceful solutions in Central America. Nicaragua responded 2 days later by presenting a proposal containing six basic points for discussion, and by agreeing to have the negotiations sponsored by the Contadora Group implemented on a multilateral basis. The proposals included the signing of a nonaggression pact between Nicaragua and Honduras, a halt to arms shipments by any nation to the forces in conflict in El Salvador, and a commitment not to utilize the region's states as a base for launching attacks against forces that oppose any of the governments in the region. Managua also proposed to negotiate agreements that would guarantee absolute respect for the right to self-determination of the Central American peoples, an end to attacks and economic discrimination against any of the region's nations, and a ban on the establishment of foreign military bases in the area, as well as the suspension of military exercises involving the participation of foreign armies.

In October, the Nicaraguan Government submitted to the U.S. Government and to the Contadora Group a document containing legal instruments that would guarantee peace and international security in Central America. The document included four proposals: one to guarantee peace and security between the United States and Nicaragua; another on friendship, cooperation, and peace between Nicaragua and Honduras; and a third promoting a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict. The fourth proposal is a general treaty for the preservation of peace and security, and for cooperation among the region's five nations. The following month, three new proposals on military matters, foreign policy, and Central American socioeconomic development completed Nicaragua's efforts to negotiate within the framework of the 21 objectives set forth by the Contadora Group as the conditions for attaining peace in the area.

CHILEAN RESISTANCE TO PINOCHET REGIME VIEWED

PA302215 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 29 Dec 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Protest actions have intensified in Chile during the past few weeks. The Chilean masses have adopted several means of struggle to put an end to Augusto Pinochet's fascist military regime.

During the year there have been significant national protest drives, where the people have swarmed to the streets to demand their democratic rights.

On 14 December, numerous dynamite attacks against electric towers left Santiago as well as a vast zone in the country's central region without energy. On 23 December, two Carabineros were wounded in a shooting that occurred in a downtown Santiago neighborhood. Police efforts to locate the attackers were fruitless. At the same time, two bombs destroyed a stretch of railroad in the Maipo Bridge area some 20 km from Santiago, interrupting railroad traffic to the south.

Mass organizations continue their protests. More than 10 Chilean women organizations released a manifesto urging the people to unite as the only way to confront economic ruin, repression, and dismissals.

Political prisoners went on a hunger strike to demand the dissolution of the military regime's secret police, the National Information Center, which is held responsible for the murder, abduction, and torture of thousands of Chileans.

At present, the military police, using sticks and trained dogs, are again attacking the downtown Santiago street vendors who, pressed by the extremely serious economic difficulties, are filling the commercial neighborhoods during this time of precarious festivities in order to sell merchandise.

The Association of Merchants of Santiago and the Democratic Alliance [Alianza Democratica] Democratica], an opposition coalition, have protested police repression of the street vendors, dozens of whom have been detained. They have also demanded the dissolution of General Pinochet's secret police.

Despite a ban by the Santiago Intendancy, open meetings were held last week in the communities of San Miguel and (Loerbida). Participants at those meetings included not only the local residents, but also the leaders of the Chilean People's Democratic Movement, a leftist coalition, and of the center-right-wing Democratic Alliance. On that occasion, Democratic Alliance President Ricardo Lagos warned that the path to the reestablishment of democracy in Chile will be obstructed unless an in-depth change is brought about. Democratic Alliance has called numerous demonstrations to demand the prompt reestablishment of a democratic government system. To this end, it also sponsored a dialogue with the military authorities, which turned out to be a complete failure.

The Communist Party of Chile, which is part of the Chilean People's Democratic Movement, has addressed a letter to the Democratic Alliance, stressing that it would be better for the cause of democracy to leave aside the (?Byzantine) discussion between opponents and advocates of the use of violence, in order to advance toward an understanding of all the forces that oppose Pinochet's regime. The letter stresses that to this end it would be advisable to respect the style of struggle of all the opposition forces and to correctly value all those actions that contribute to the development of the mass struggle, to the destabilization of the military regime, and to bringing the end of the dictatorship closer. Most Chileans are demanding Pinochet's immediate removal from office and the establishment of a democratic system of government.

The more the opposition forces coordinate their efforts, the more rapidly the Chilean people's democratic aspirations will be fulfilled.

ANGOLAN DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY BOHEMIA

PA012315 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jan 84

["World Event" commentary]

[Text] The use of chemical weapons against the Angolan people by South Africa and by UNITA's counterrevolutionary bands is one of the most condemnable and censurable of the acts which the government of Luanda has denounced to the world.

In an interview with the Cuban magazine BOHEMIA, Angolan Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha said that South African racist troops and UNITA are definitely using ammunition that contains chemicals. These substances, Tonha added, cause our men breathing problems in the areas where those weapons are used. They cause not only throat irritation, but also poor vision for a period of time. This has occurred in the Provinces of Cunene and Malange as well as in the zone of (Carlango).

Furthermore he said, UNITA's troops are receiving all types of supplies, from the most fundamental to the most modern, manufactured by the United States and by South Africa. With these provisions they can conduct guerrilla warfare or conventional combat maneuvers.

We have charged that these arms are delivered by parachute to the invading troops in Angolan territory, Tonha indicated.

On the enemy's strategy of occupying part of Cunene Province, Tonha said that it is aimed at destabilizing the People's Republic of Angola and at altering the course of the revolution and of the liberation movements in that part of Africa. This action seeks to destabilize all revolutionary movements in that part of the African Continent. The enemy's strategy is to promote the advance of all those who can serve their interests, so that later they can promote disorder in Angolan communities. The enemy is trying to consolidate the position of those who later will be used to attack national interests, and at the same time it is trying to find a way to destroy the peoples' struggle in Namibia and in South Africa.

The Angolan defense minister, whose nom de guerre during the national liberation was Telale, told BOHEMIA during the interview that in relation to actions against the counterrevolutionary bands and their bosses, Angola has charged that the country is living in a state of undeclared war. Tonha said: First we should mention South Africa's aggression. South Africa has invaded our country for the second time. The first aggression was immediately after we gained our independence on 11 December 1975. The aggression continues with the occupation of a portion of Angolan territory in Cuene District. This has permitted the puppet bands, mainly UNITA, to carry out their actions according to the strategy outlined by the South African fascists and the U.S. Government.

The Angolan defense minister mentioned sabotage and attacks on economic centers, energy centers, bridges, highways and railroads in the Provinces of Benguela, Mocamedes and Malange. All these actions, Tonha pointed out, are part of the strategy of imperialism. He added that a great offensive is currently in progress against the enemy's positions, mainly in Angola's central and southern districts. For this reason, the counter-revolutionary bands are having difficulty in carrying out their plans despite massive South African and U.S. support. The territory of Namibia, illegally occupied by South Africans, is used as a corridor.

Finally, Tonha said that Angola's youth has enthusiastically enlisted for military service and that there are more volunteering to defend the country than are legally required to report for military service.

TELECOMMUNICATION LEADERS FORM CONSORTIUM

FL301340 Bridgetown CANA in English 2323 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 29 (CANA) -- Caribbean and Latin American countries are getting together to explore the best way of making use of emerging telecommunications technologies, particularly satellites. One of the first steps taken has been the formation of the Caribbean Basin Telecommunications Consortium to foster regional development and bring together the nations of the Caribbean basin for consultations and cooperation.

The consortium is an outgrowth of the Caribbean Basin Telecommunications Conference held last May in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, under the auspices of the Washington-based nonprofit organisation Caribbean/Central American Action. It calls together telecommunications leaders from the Caribbean basin (the island nations, Central America, and the northern rim of South America) for continuing discussions, for research and technical assistance in carrying out specific communications projects, and to coordinate funding resources.

The principal focus of the consortium is television communications development. But it will also explore prospective joint-user benefits related to telephone, radio, print media, and data transmission development.

At the Ocho Rios conference, Caribbean leaders expressed concern that rapid telecommunications advances might undermine cultural diversity and increase social disparities. As a result, a U.S.-based organisation was formed to address the issues raised at Ocho Rios, and to influence the wide-sweeping changes in telecommunications in the Caribbean basin.

The consortium's long-term objectives include:
The development of earth satellite facilities for the Caribbean basin;
Stimulation of regional radio and TV programming production; and
Upgrading of existing television transmission facilities.

Pilot projects are now under development in two eastern Caribbean islands:
Increasing the flow of information on telecommunications issues and development throughout the Caribbean basin by disseminating a newsletter in English and Spanish; and
Creation of resource centres to provide video and audio equipment for television and radio production and personnel training.

The consortium's advisory board is chaired by Costa Rica's Minister of Information Armando Vargas and by Jamaica's Minister of State for Information Mike Henry. Vargas is expected to announce the formation of the consortium in his keynote address to the International Telecommunication Union meeting in Hawaii in January, recommending it as a model for telecommunications development in the Third World.

Other members of the advisory board, which is scheduled to meet in February to discuss project priorities, include Bermuda's Telecommunications and Industry Minister John Stubbs, Secretary-General of the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA) Harry Mayers, Vice President of the Chase Bank Luis Moreno Jr, and Bank of America's Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean John Figueredo.

The consortium, whose programmes will reveive funding support principally from foundations and the international development banks, was incorporated in Washington, D.C., with a three-member board of directors experienced in telecommunications, video programming, and media relations.

Its president, Robert D. Shaheen, has extensive experience in the financing and operation of communications systems in the U.S. and Africa. Executive Vice President Alyse Lynn Booth was director of communications for Caribbean/Central American Action, and organised the first Caribbean Basin Telecommunications Conference. Eric H. Smith, vice president and general counsel, is a practising attorney in Washington and former senior vice president and general counsel of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

The consortium is currently forming a U.S. advisory group. Members who have agreed to serve include Peter B. Johnson, executive director of the Caribbean/Central American Action; Susan Herzog, president of Diversified Resources, Inc; Bert Cowlan, a communications consultant; and John Lent, professor of communications at Temple University.

BAHAMAS

NEW CHIEF JUSTICE TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

FL031844 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Mr (Phillip Telford Georges) has been sworn in as the new chief justice of the Bahamas. (Sophie Saunders) reports:

[Begin (Saunders) recording] At ceremonies at Government House this morning, Mr (Georges) took the oath before the governor-general, Sir Gerald Cash.

Born in Dominica in 1923, Mr (Georges) holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Doctor of Law degree from the University of Toronto, Canada. Mr (Georges) served as high court judge in Trinidad and as chief justice of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. He served in the Bahamas as a justice at the Bahamas Court of Appeals from 1975 to 1981.

Mr (Georges) will make his formal address to the Bahamas at the opening of the January session of the Supreme Court next Wednesday. [end recording]

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR SPEAKERS MEETING

FL021455 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1312 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The speaker of the House of Assembly, the Honorable Clifford Darling, heads a delegation to the 7th Conference of Commonwealth Speakers being held in Wellington, New Zealand. Sir Clifford is being accompanied by Lady Darling, the president of the Senate, the Honorable Edwin Coleby, and Mrs Coleby.

Among the matters to be discussed are the problems of speakers of small legislatures, problems relating to parliamentary privilege, and parliamentary security. The conference begins tomorrow.

BARBADOS

PRIME MINISTER ADAMS' NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

FL022036 Bridgetown CANA in English 1555 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 2 (CANA) -- The Barbados Government plans to inject at least 750 million dollars (1 Bdos dollar; 50 cents U.S.) in capital works into the economy over the next five years, according to Prime Minister Tom Adams.

In his new year's message, the prime minister said the government has completed its new development plan for the period 1983-84 to 1987-88, aimed at building on the firm economic foundations laid in the plan period just ended.

"The economic development plan will be complemented by the recently amended physical development plan, which outlines the national settlement strategy and policies for Barbados up to the year 2000," Adams said. He said that early this year government will move into the second phase of its major reshaping of the island's road systems, involving the construction of 60 million dollars more in roadway to link the Bridgetown port and the Grantley Adams international airport.

The prime minister said preliminary figures indicate that Barbados last year recorded economic growth in the order of two percent. "With the slow and at first uncertain signs of recovery in the international economy, the Barbadian economy began to show its own hopeful signs, and economic indicators suggest that Barbados has enjoyed some economic growth during 1983," Adams said.

He added: "Without any major difficulties, we have met all of our obligations under the IMF (International Monetary Fund) arrangement, our foreign reserves have stabilised, the rate of inflation has been drastically cut, and unemployment has levelled off." Nevertheless, the prime minister said, the country faces new problems not envisaged a year ago as the economic situation within the Caribbean Community (Caricom) took a turn for the worse in 1983.

However, he said that when it is considered that last year Barbados was operating in an international economic environment which had not substantially recovered from the shocks of recession "...we can take heart that the modest economic growth in 1983 probably heralds the beginning of a new era of economic advance in Barbados."

"Certainly the government has done its best to put in place the institutional and infrastructural mechanism to take early advantage of any maintenance of improvement in recovery in the international economic situation," he said.

Adams said 1984 holds "new, challenging, and exciting, but by no means undaunting prospects for Barbadians." "We are still benefiting from the high level of national unity and social cohesion that was revealed by the unprecedented regional crisis of recent months," he said. Adams added: "The extent to which we move fully into the new era of development that awaits us will depend heavily on our continuing to exercise these admirable virtues (strength and patience) coupled with love for our nation, mutual respect, and an unswerving confidence in our abilities to meet challenges and rise to new heights."

The prime minister said he was heartened by the Barbadian response not only to the economic problems but to the Grenada crisis in October, which he termed "the most spectacular political event to happen in these islands since 1788."

"Our response proved our commitment to the democratic way of life, and the regard which we have for all mankind to live in dignity, freedom, and self-respect was the factor which governed our decision," he said.

Barbados was one of several Eastern Caribbean nations which joined the United States in a military intervention in Grenada to restore order after a left-wing military junta had seized power on October 19, killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, who himself had come to power by a coup in March 1979.

Adams said the tragic events in Grenada from 1979 to 1983 constitute a sombre period in the history of the Caribbean. "Those of us who did what we knew was right suffered some condemnation at the outset," he said. "But our stance is already being vindicated, (and) now that a clear picture of the Grenada situation has emerged, Barbados is receiving much private commendation for its actions and initiatives."

COUNTRY DAMAGED BY TRINIDAD TRADE POLICIES

FL031152 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Barbados Central Bank Governor (Courtney Blackman) says his country has suffered great damage from Trinidad's import licensing and exchange controls. He says a number of Barbadian firms have been forced to stop producing, particularly furniture and garments, and at least 200 Barbadians have been laid off as a result.

BERMUDA

MAGISTRATE, MONETARY AUTHORITY CHIEF RESIGN

FL302340 Bridgetown CANA in English 2026 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Dec 30 (CANA) -- Bermuda's senior magistrate and the head of the island's monetary authority have sprung surprises by announcing their resignations. Senior Magistrate Gerald Price, a Welshman, has also stepped down as chairman of the government-appointed Price Control Commission and has said that he intends to leave the island soon.

Dr Merlyn Trued, Bermuda Monetary Authority (BMA) managing director and controller of foreign exchange, resigned three months before his contract was due to expire at the end of March. As an American, Dr Trued's appointment in October, 1980, marked a radical departure from tradition -- previously all BMA heads had been from the Bank of England.

Dr Trued, 60, came to the island on a three-year contract which was later extended. He said: "It's been fun. But it's all over." Finance Minister David Gibbons said Dr Trued had been suffering from ill-health with "frequent absences from the office."

Price, who is in his thirties, is leaving amid controversy. News of his departure came shortly after it was announced that his citizen application had been turned down. Price has denied there is any connection between the two. He has lived in Bermuda for seven years.

His resignation as chairman of the Price Control Commission, announced by Minister Gibbons, came a few days after the commission's other two members quit the body. The two, government auditor Larry Dennis and liquor merchant Cecil Dismont, resigned because Gibbons overturned their recommendation that the Bermuda Telephone Company should not be allowed to increase its prices. They complained that the commission's decisions were frequently overturned on appeal.

DOMINICA

OECS SUMMIT SET FOR LATE JANUARY IN ST LUCIA

FL302348 Bridgetown CANA in English 2255 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Dec 30 (CANA) -- Heads of government of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) will meet in St Lucia in late January, it was officially announced here today.

The Dominica Foreign Affairs Department said the meeting on January 27 will be preceded by a meeting of foreign affairs ministers of the sub-regional grouping on January 26. Foreign affairs officials will meet from January 24-25, the department said.

The announcement gave no indication as to the sort of agenda the heads of government will have before them.

It also said OECS economic affairs ministers will meet in Antigua on January 11. They will discuss, among other items, preparatory matters leading to negotiations for the third Lome convention as well as preparatory talks leading to the February 13-17 Washington meeting of the Caribbean Group for Economic Development.

Dominica's prime minister, Eugenia Charles, is the current chairperson of the OECS.

JAMAICA

ECONOMIST FORESEES LOW LEVEL OF INSTABILITY

FL301732 Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 20 Dec 83 p 16

[Text] Economist Mark Ricketts foresees a lower level of political instability in the country next year than that imagined by some people as a result of recent developments relating to the country's parliamentary life. He attributed this low level of instability to the absence of organisation, funding, and mobilisation in the People's National Party.

Mr Ricketts' comments on the political situation in the country were made as he addressed the Jamaica U-Drive Association's luncheon held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Thursday. He said that there was a feeling that what was happening represented a constitutional crisis but he felt that the crisis was already there and "what this reflects is a manifestation of that crisis." According to Mr Ricketts, "we had the crisis by virtue of the fact that we have downplayed the role of Parliament, and what has emerged is an inability to work through a political problem in which Parliament should have been pre-eminent."

He stated that there was a serious need for the society to look at the cost of pursuing democracy, and what was happening now was that we were paying a price for the dimunition of the role of Parliament. "Because we have to pay a price, I believe the level of political instability next year will not be to the extent imagined by some. The price we pay is the fact that we will not have the kind of debate we are accustomed to have in Parliament. But to believe that there will be an additional price in terms of street demonstrations at a high level, I doubt if this kind of situation will occur."

Mr Ricketts said that the timing of the completion of the enumeration process would mean that most of the price increases would have taken place and so the lobbying effect would have lost some of its momentum. He said he thought that if the opposition party had done that kine of analysis, it would have recognised that the timing would be against it. It was therefore likely that there would be much greater stability because of the absence of an intense lobbying effort, through political activism, outside of Parliament.

He said extra-parliamentary activity demanded tremendous management, organisation, and funding, and this was lacking. The appointment of caretakers was not sufficient as they lacked privileges and therefore public appeal. They would have difficulty and he questioned how the opposition would be able to engage in the mobilisation effort which dominated the 1970's, to ensure the kind of street demonstration arising from discontent regarding economic strategies. "How will it be possible to engage in the kind of mobilisation effort to be able to ensure the kind of street demonstration to galvanise the perceived discontent that will arise from the economic strategies?" he asked.

According to him, two of the party's critical mobilising agents were keeping a low profile and so there must be someone to fill that role. The party would need someone to fill the role to generate the kind of opposition that would create a relatively unstable climate, protests, and street marches on a large basis.

In light of such factors, Mr Ricketts said, he did not see where such demonstrations would take place. He expected to see some demonstrations before media houses with people protesting against price increases and industrial unrest as workers tried to secure benefit packages commensurate with the price increases.

BAUXITE INDUSTRY OUTPUT HITS 20-YEAR LOW

FL031849 Bridgetown CANA in English 1752 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 3 (CANA) -- Jamaica's recession-hit bauxite alumina industry ended the year with total bauxite output at its lowest level in 20 years, the Bauxite Institute (JBI) said.

Total bauxite (combining bauxite exports and ore processed in Jamaica) disposed of amounted to 7.7 million tonnes, seven percent less than the 8.3 million tonnes in 1982.

According to preliminary figures, alumina shipments totalled 1.9 million tonnes, topping the 1982 figure of 1.7 million tonnes by almost nine percent.

However, bauxite exports fell 2.5 percent to just over three million tonnes as against four million in 1982.

Nearly one-half of the bauxite and a quarter of the alumina shipped were marketed by the government through its agencies BATCO (Bauxite-Alumina Trading Co) and the JBM (Jamaica Bauxite Mining Co), the JBI said. These government-contract deliveries included 1.2 million tonnes of bauxite to the U.S. Government stockpile, and 198,000 tonnes of alumina to Venezuela.

At a recent news conference, JBI Executive Director Carlton Davis estimated that net inflows from the bauxite alumina industry in 1983 would be about 230 million U.S. dollars, compared with 285 million in 1982.

On the international scene, the world aluminum industry has maintained the recovery which began in the second quarter, about eight months ago. With increasing demand, metal inventories built up in 1981 and 1982, are now back down to normal levels generally, and the U.S. smelter operating rate has climbed back to 78.3 per cent of capacity. Candian smelters, with the advantage of low-cost hydropower are operating at 93 per cent of capacity. The U.S. and Canada together have six million of the world's 16 million tonnes of annual aluminum smelter capacity.

Basic primary aluminum ingot prices have also risen sharply from an average of U.S. 55 cents a pound a year ago to a current listed price of 81 cents a pound.

While it is unlikely that world bauxite production in 1983 will be much different from 1982's ten-year low of 76 million tonnes, bauxite exporters, including Jamaica, are hoping for improvement in 1984 -- so long as the world economic recovery continues. According to JBI's Executive Director Dr Carlton Davis, Jamaica's production in 1984 "should exceed nine million tonnes -- other things being equal.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TOBAGO ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN ON 1984 BUDGET

FL032250 Bridgetown CANA in English 1956 GMT 3 Jan 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 3 (CANA) -- Tobago leader A.N.R. Robinson said today he expected the government of Prime Minister George Chambers to respond "with a spirit of reasonableness" to the 1984 budget proposals of the Tobago Assembly. Robinson made his remarks to CANA while commenting on the outcome of talks he held here last Friday with Chambers.

Assembly Chairman Robinson, a former deputy prime minister of the twin-island state, has long complained of lack of funds and power for the assembly, which nominally runs the 116-square-mile island which lies 21 miles northeast of Trinidad.

Describing the talks with Chambers as businesslike, Robinson said it was the first time his delegation was listened to "with respect."

Tobago has submitted a budget calling for total expenditure of 527.7 million dollars (one TT dollar; 41 U.S. cents). Robinson said that although he did not expect to get all the money asked for, he expected allocations would be made with "a degree of give and take" and in a "spirit of reasonableness."

The assembly chairman charged that in previous talks, the ministry of finance allocated to Tobago whatever the ministry wanted. "As a result, Tobago has been granted far less (money) than deserved by the population -- apart from that needed because of its own peculiar disadvantages," said Robinson. He said Tobago lacked the physical facilities that provided jobs as in Trinidad and this led to Tobagonians "emigrating" to the larger island in search of work.

The assembly chairman said that the question of devolution of authority to the assembly by the central government was again brought up at the meeting with Chambers. Robinson has persistently complained of the twin-island states' central government overriding the authority of the assembly in running the affairs of Tobago under the Tobago House of Assembly Act of 1980.

Among specific areas of assembly responsibility which have been mutually agreed upon by the central government and the assembly but which are still controlled from Port of Spain are customs and excise, inland revenue, industrial development, and health and education, said the assembly chairman. "Government claims the right to override the assembly in all it does," said Robinson, adding that "that makes nonsense of decentralisation."

The present position with the island which was to have a degree of autonomy in running its own affairs under the Tobago House of Assembly Act was summed up by the chairman as one where "the assembly must accept responsibility without power while government keeps power without responsibility." Describing this as an "impossible" situation, Robinson restated his plan to tour the Caribbean in the first quarter of this year with other opposition leaders (Basdeo Panday of the United Labour Front, and Karl Hudson-Phillips of the Organisation for National Reconstruction) to draw attention of Caribbean peoples to what he called the "deplorable" situation existing between Trinidad and Tobago.

1984 SUGAR INDUSTRY PRODUCTION, IMPORTS ESTIMATE

FL032220 Bridgetown CANA in English 2132 GMT 3 Jan 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 3 (CANA) -- Harvesting of this year's sugar crop, estimated at 80,000 tonnes, began today with Trinidad and Tobago anticipating it will have to import more than 64,000 tonnes for domestic consumption.

A spokesman for the state-owned monopoly producer Caroni Ltd told CANA the company expected to produce 950,000 tonnes of canes, barring bad weather and unofficial fires, which would yield about 80,000 tonnes of sugar.

This output would go to meet Trinidad and Tobago's 75,000-tonne quota with the European Community, with the remainder going towards a United States' quota of 19,000 tonnes. "We haven't been taking up the United States quota," the company official said.

According to the spokesman, Caroni Ltd expects to import 17,000 tonnes of washed grey sugar for local consumption and 47,460 tonnes of raw sugar, to be refined into 42,000 tonnes of granulated sugar, also for local use.

Sugar production last year of 77,451 long tonnes (76,232 tons) was a record low. Sugar production has been declining since 1976 when government took control of the industry from the British firm Tate and Lyle Ltd. Last year Caroni Ltd closed two of its four factories to cut costs. The All Trinidad Sugar Estates and General Workers Trade Union has said the closure led to the retrenchment of 1,000 fulltime staffers, and another 2,000 temporary workers lost their jobs following the production decline.

Meanwhile, the company has started to diversify crop production. A company official said today Caroni Ltd was carrying on a pilot project to grow rice, coffee, citrus, and passion fruit, with rice taking up 150 acres. Caroni Ltd recorded a loss of 131.6 million dollars (1 TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) for its 1980 operations.

GUYANA

BAUXITE INDUSTRY 1983 PRODUCTION FIGURES, LOSSES

FL032208 Bridgetown CANA in English 1857 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 3 (CANA) -- Guyana is studying two reports by U.S. experts on the vital but ailing state-run bauxite industry, which is expected to report a more than 131-million-dollar (1 Guy dollar; 33 cents U.S.) loss for 1983, a spokesman said.

The reports by United States Engineers and Consultants, Incorporated, and Kaiser Aluminum Technical Services (KATSI) painted a gloomy picture for the Guyana Mining Enterprise (GUYMINE) and recommended an action plan to revitalise the country's chief hard currency earner.

The industry produced more than one million tonnes of bauxite last year, according to an official of the Guyana Mining Enterprise (GUYMINE).

Up to December 24, the Linden operations, 67 miles south of here, produced 612,413 tonnes of bauxite, made up of 291,447 tonnes calcined bauxite and 320,966 tonnes metal grade bauxite.

The Berbice operations produced 419,290 tonnes of bauxite up to December 27. This was made up of 138,471 tonnes chemical grade bauxite, 233,862 tonnes metal grade bauxite, 27,112 tonnes abrasive "A" grade bauxite, 9,828 tonnes super calcined bauxite, and 10,017 tonnes alumina cement grade bauxite. Up to December 27, the Berbice operations had shipped 439,188 tonnes of bauxite to overseas customers.

Figures for the Linden operations shipping activities were not available.

The highest tonnage exported by the Berbice operations was metal grade bauxite -- some 249,795 tonnes, with the second highest being chemical grade bauxite -- 141,096 tonnes.

SURINAME

GOVERNMENT WAITING FOR DISSIDENT WORKERS' ANSWER

FL301235 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Government officials in Paramaribo are awaiting a response from dissident union members who have paralyzed Suriname's largest bauxite mine for 11 days and have also cut off electric power to parts of the capital city.

A government spokesman says officials met with an eight-man workers committee on Wednesday to hear the complaints against Suriname's military government and its stiff new taxes. He said the government would not discuss the situation until the workers return to their jobs at the Suriname Aluminum Company and stopped interfering with electricity output from generators at the nearby Paranam Dam.

Bouterse, Workers Reach Agreement

FL041246 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Suriname's military leader reportedly has reached an agreement with striking bauxite workers. The state-owned news media says Lieutenant-Colonel Deysi Bouterse, who heads Suriname as military commander and head of the National Policy Center, personally took charge of negotiations with hundreds of bauxite workers last Friday and reached an agreement over the weekend. Sources close to the striking mine workers say Col Bouterse agreed to scale back stiff new income taxes due to take effect in the state in 1984. Bauxite mine workers began their strike 2 weeks ago in defiance of their leaders.